The Blessings of Bismillaah

Whenever we say بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem*, we regard it as something unimportant. However, this sentence that Rasulullaah ρ stressed so much really joins us closer to Allaah.

Dear children! When we recite Bismillaah, we are saying that we are beginning the work with the name of Allaah Who is the Most Kind and Most Merciful. If we recite it with this meaning in mind, we will receive many benefits. Two of these benefits are:

1. By continuously taking the name of Allaah, we are admitting that every little thing in this universe is under Allaah's command and can therefore do nothing without Allaah's command.
2. The second benefit is that we will realise that anything we do is not of our own achievement but is from Allaah. We will then develop humbleness because we will know that everything really belongs to Allaah and that nothing is my own. We will then be saved from pride, which is the root of all evil. It is because of this pride that people oppress others, think low of others and are not fair towards them. When a person actively believes in Allaah and is convinced that Allaah makes everything happen, how can such a person do wrong when he starts doing something by saying بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem*?

   A person is therefore asking Allaah's help in the work he is starting and hoping for blessings in it. Who can ask for Allaah's help when doing something sinful because it will be extremely sinful and disrespectful? Therefore, by reciting بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ *Bismillaahir*

Rahmaanir Raheem, a person will be saved from sin and also receive Allaah's help.

Now listen carefully to the story about the blessings of Bismillaah.

There was a kingdom ruled by a Kaafir king. He had many servants doing various tasks in the palace. Amongst these servants, was an old lady would did many of the domestic chores. The old lady was regular with salaah and another good habit she had was that she always recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* whenever she did anything.

The king did not like this and asked her why it was unnecessary for her to recite *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* every time she did something. She did not give any reply but said, "I shall take the name of the One Who created me whenever I do something."

One day, the king called his special servants to him, and said, "Today I shall teach the old lady a lesson for reciting *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* and I shall not give up the until she stops reciting it. He then called for her in front of all the courtiers and said, "I shall be going away for a few days. I want you to look after this ring with precious jewels for me. I shall ask you for it when I return."

The old lady said *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* and then took the ring from the king's hand. She then went to her room where she again recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* before placing the ring into the trunk where she kept her clothing. The king however sent one of his men to see where she kept the ring.

The man secretly saw where she kept the ring and informed the king about it. By the king's order, one of his men quietly got into her room when she was busy working, took the ring out of the trunk and threw it into

the ocean. Because the old lady was so busy with her work, she did not get a chance to check on the ring. How could she ever have imagined that the king will give her a ring for safekeeping and then have it stolen from her?

When the king returned from his journey, he called for the old lady and asked, "What are we eating today?" "Whatever you desire," the lady replied. The King said, "While we were out on the journey, I had planned to catch some fish but we never had the chance to do so. Why don't you get a fish to cook?" The old lady recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* and went to the treasurer to get the money for the fish. When she took the money, she again recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* and then recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* again when she brought the fish. When she brought it to the palace and started to wash it, she recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* once more and then again recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* before cutting it.

When she cut the fish open, she was surprised to find the king's ring in its belly. Tears came to her eyes when she realised what had happened. She picked up the ring reciting *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* and then recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* again before tucking it in her clothing.

After the king had eaten and sat down to rest, he called many of the courtiers and servants together. He then called for the old lady and asked her for the ring. When she left for her room, the king and the courtiers around him who knew what had happened started to laugh. They all thought that today they will make a fool out of the old lady for always reciting *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem*. An announcement was also made in the palace for all the other servants to come forward to see how she would be disgraced so that they would all stop reciting *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* each time they did something.

As they all waited, the old lady went calmly to her room, recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* and opened her trunk. She then recited *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* again as she picked up the ring and went before the king. When she gave the ring to the king, his face changed from colour to colour. In anger he exclaimed "Where did you get this from?" By saying this, he got himself trapped because as far as most of the people knew, the King himself had given the ring over to the lady for safe keeping.

All the old lady said was, "Dear King! It was you who gave it to me for safe keeping." The king could not control himself as he said, "But it was…" It was then that the old lady said, "Let me complete the story for you. You had the ring thrown into the ocean but that Merciful Being whose name I take whenever I do something returned it to me through His mercy. I had nothing to do with it. It was the same Merciful Beinig by whose mercy the fish was caught and it was He who placed into your heart the desire to eat a fish. The same fish that swallowed the ring was caught, bought by us and brought to the palace. It was also the same being Who saved my hand from being cut for stealing. O king! Do you still not understand the blessings of *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* and the power and Oneness of the Being Whose name is mentioned in it? The king lowered his gaze and then everyone in the palace heard him say loudly:

اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لا اِلٰـهَ اِلا اللهُ وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَ رَسُوْلُه

"I testify that there is none worthy of worship besides Allaah and I testify that Muhammad ρ is Allaah's servant and Rasul"

Dear children! The king had hardly completed reciting the Shaahaadah when all his ministers and courtiers also recited the Kalimah and entered the fold of Islaam.

Dear children! See how Allaah solved the woman's problem because of His pure name. She was saved from embarrassment and because she had remained so steadfast upon reciting *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* despite all the criticism, Allaah blessed the king and so many others with the gift of Imaan.

We must also try to recite *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem* always and remember that the act we are doing should be one that pleases the Great Being whose name we are taking.

Let us now look back and see how many actions we did today were done by starting with *Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem.*

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Concern for the Aakhirah

There was a king who used to test people in different ways to see how they thought and how intelligent they were. Dear children! It is very important and a very great quality to be able to keep one's senses at the time of a difficulty, otherwise one will suffer from making the wrong decision at such a time.

The king one day called his minister and gave him a goat. He then had the goat weighed and told the minister to keep the goat for a week. He however made the condition that the goat has to weigh exactly the same after the week. It was not to weigh any more or any less than it was. The minister was then give a week off to care for the goat.

The minister was extremely worried and because he had no idea how he was going to do as the king said, he cried all the time. He knew that if he did not feed the goat, it would die and if he did feed it, it would get heavier. He therefore turned to Allaah and made du'aa for help.

Just then, he remembered that there was a saint who gave people advice on all matters. He therefore went to the saint and explained the situation. At first, the saint though that he should write to the king and tell him that it was not permissible to make such an impossible condition with someone, but the minister pleaded with him to first solve the problem and then explain the matter to the king. "Alright," the saint said, "But I would still have to speak to the king sometime and give him some advice."

The saint said this because he had heard that the king was not regular with his salaahs and because he was so

involved with the luxuries and pleasures of the world, he did not care much for the Aakhirah. He felt that he would have to advise the king on this and try to get him to correct his life.

In the meantime, he told the minister to allow the goat to graze during the day and to sharpen a knife in front of it during the night. Although it is not permissible to slaughter an animal in front of another or to sharpen a knife in front of it, the saint explained that it was now necessary to save the minister's life.
The minister did as he was told and after a week, the king had the goat weighed. To his surprise, it weighed exactly the same. He was very surprised to see this and gave the minister a big reward. "It is not me but the saint who deserves this reward ," the minister said. The king then sent for the saint. When the saint arrived, he explained to the king that although the goat enjoyed eating during the day, it forgot everything at night because of its fear of being slaughtered and the worry made its weight remain the same. The eating during the day therefore kept the goat alive by the will of Allaah, but the sharpening of the knife kept it restless.

The king then said, "I understand everything you have said. Perhaps it is now time for me to become good. You had been waiting a long time to give me some advice and you have used your opportunity well. You have advised me to keep remembering the Aakhirah, the grave, Jahannam and death. In this way, despite all the luxuries I enjoy, I will still remain restless. I shall now not leave the ways of the Deen and will also bring others on to this path. I am making a promise to you that I shall never leave out any salaah and shall stop all sins."

With the advise of the saint, the king then got rid of all the evils in the palace and started to regularly perform his salaah, recite Qur'aan and carry out the commands of the Deen. At the same time, he made sure that all those

under him also did the same. He would always perform two Rakaahs salaah to thank Allaah for changing his life and also recite some poems which mean:

"Listen dear friend! When the good days come
The paths of our meeting will become apparent by themselves
A course teaches only words
While it takes a person to make a person of someone
This is the only way to meet Him
Make a path through those on the path"

Dear children! We must also regard the Aakhirah as the most important life and then Allaah will make the world come to us. We must always think that we will one day have to leave this world. Let us imagine that we have died and people have been informed of our death. The time has been set for the funeral and we are being carried to the graveyard. We are now leaving this world forever and will never be returning. When we keep imagining this, we will really gather plenty of good deeds. We will think, "Did I do enough to get the du'aas of my parents?" "Did I recite Surah Mulk every day before sleeping so that it can be light in my grave?"

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The Clever Businessman

A king once had the announcement made that whoever speaks a lie in his kingdom will have to face the righteous judge and will then receive a very severe punishment. After hearing this announcement, the people started to stay away from each other, fearing that someone may accuse them of lying.

The king and his minister disguised themselves one day and went out into the city. When they met a businessman, the following conversation took place:

King: How old are you?

Businessman: Twenty years old.

King: How much money do you have?

Businessman: Seventy thousand.

King: How many children do you have?

Businessman: One.

The king and the minister then returned to check their register. They however found out that the man had lied to them. They therefore called for him and the following conversation took place this time:

King: You said that you were twenty years old, which was a lie. Your punishment will therefore be …

Businessman: You must first prove that I was wrong.

King: Our register here says that you are now sixty-five years old.

Businessman: Dear Sir! It was only twenty years of my life that I spent in peace and happiness. I therefore regard only those years as my life.

King: When we asked you about your money, you said that it was only seventy thousand whereas the register shows that your money cannot even be counted.

Businessman: Although I have so much wealth, it was seventy thousand that I spent to built a Masjid and because that will be of use to me in the Aakhirah, I regard only that to be my true wealth.

King: But when we asked about your children, you said that you have only one, whereas you have five.

Businessman: Four of my children are worthless because they have terrible characters and are evil people. However. The one is a good child whose character is excellent. It is only him that I regard as my child because only he can be of use in the Aakhirah.

The king was very pleased with the answers and said, "It is truly only the years of peace and happiness that can be regarded as life and only that wealth is really wealth, which was spent for Allaah and which will benefit one in the Aakhirah. As for children, it is only the ones with good character and who do good deeds who can be called one's children.

Dear children! The answers that the businessman gave are really what our Deen says. Only that part of a person's life can really be called life, which is spend in the remembrance of Allaah. Similarly, only that wealth can be called wealth, which is spent to please Allaah and only those children are worth calling one's own children who do

good deeds, please Allaah and their parents and are a form of Sadaqah for the parents after their deaths. Allaah told Hadhrat Nooh υ about his son who did not accept Imaan: "He is really not from your family."[1]

NOTE: Dear children! We must also spend all we have for the pleasure of Allaah because Rasulullaah ρ said, "The intelligent person is he who prepares for his death."[2]

We must therefore keep on the straight path and tell others to do the same.

[1] Surah Hood, verse 46.
[2] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.451).

Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 1: Which Sahabi τ was the first to have any of Rasulullaah ρ's saliva on his face?

Question 2: Who was the first horseman to fight in Islaam?

Question 3: When the news spread that the Quraysh had captured Rasulullaah ρ, who was the Sahabi τ who drew his sword and vowed that he would set Rasulullaah ρ free?

Question 4: Which Sahabi τ was the first to recite the Qur'aan loudly in front of the Quraysh?

Question 5: When the Quraysh had stopped the Muslims at Hudaybiyyah, which Sahabi τ was the first to vow that he would fight the Kuffaar until he was killed?

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Get what you Give

There was a wealthy and kind man who had two sons. He did his best to provide Halaal food for his children and always advised them to be good to the poor as he was. Before he passed away, he called for the two sons and told them to live together and always care for each other.

However, as soon as his eyes closed, the elder brother changed his ways. Let alone being good to the poor, he even started to oppress his own brother. While the Shari'ah wants people to share the inheritance, the elder brother took everything for himself. The only things he shared with his brother were a fruit tree, a blanket and a cow that gave milk. However, this is how he shared it. He said to his younger brother in a cruel voice, "Listen here! You may use the blanket all day, but must give it back to me at night. You can have the bottom of the tree, but everything above the trunk is mine. You may also wash the cow's head and feed her, but I shall see to the milking."

The poor younger brother then had to see that the tree was watered every day, while his brother picked all the lovely fruits and ate them without giving any to his younger brother. The younger brother then also had to wash the cow's mouth and feed, while the elder brother milked it and had all the milk for himself. What could the younger brother do with the blanket during the day, but keep it folded in the corner of the room. He would then shiver all night in the cold.

Things went on like this for many months and you should know that when an oppressor carries on for too long, Allaah eventually pulls the rope in. The younger brother

made du’aa to Allaah to make things easy for him. The younger brother later met an old man and after relating the entire incident to him, the old man gave him some advice and told him to be patient.

The following day when the elder brother was picking the fruit, he felt the tree shaking beneath him. Looking down, he saw his younger brother chopping at the trunk with his axe. “What are you doing?” he shouted. “Well,” the younger brother replied, “since the trunk belongs to me, I shall do as I please with it.”

The elder brother was now worried. How would he be able to pick fruit in future? “Please do not chop down the tree,” he pleaded, “From now, half the fruit will be yours and half mine.”

Later that day when the elder brother was busy milking the cow, the younger brother came and started to rub oil on the cow’s head and ears, causing it to sway from side to side. It became impossible for the elder brother to milk the cow and he shouted, “What is the matter with you?! What are you doing?” “Dear brother,” the younger brother replied, “The head and face of the cow is mine and I will do as I please with it.” Realising that he would never be able to get any milk from the cow in this way, the elder brother quickly proposed, “You may continue to feed the cow as you have been doing, but from today, you will have half of the milk.”

When the time came that night for the elder brother to take the blanket, the younger brother filled a large dish with water and soaked the blanket in it. He then handed over a dripping blanket to his brother. “What happened now?” the elder brother shouted. “Well,” said the younger brother, “Since I can do what I want with it during the day, I decided to have it washed. You can now have it for the night.”

The elder brother was finally forced to say, "Put the blanket in the sun tomorrow and as soon as it dries, take it to the tailor and have him cut it into two. You may then have half and I shall have half."

Dear children! When Allaah decided to help the oppressed brother, the elder brother actually gave the younger brother his share. We have learnt the following few lessons from this story:

1. That we should never oppress anyone.
2. When we are faced with any problems, we must turn to Allaah for help and then do our best
3. Allaah gives all the comforts and favours of this world such as wealth and property to people to test them. He then sees (and shows us) which of these people will use these favours to please Allaah and who will be the unfortunate ones to forget Allaah and to oppress others. When we receive any sweets, fruits or have to use anything in the house, we must never demand our way, but we must always have the habit of giving others more than their share because in this way, Allaah will also always give us more.

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Sweet-Smelling Fruits and Priceless Jewels

Dear children! Everything of this Deen Allaah has given us is like a sweet-smelling fruit and every command of the Shari'ah is like a priceless jewel. Just imagine that you have an orchard full of sweet-smelling fruits or a shop full of priceless jewels. Dear children! The truth is that all the wonderful teachings of the Deen are really more valuable than every sweet-smelling fruit and every sparkling jewel.

Dear children! Allaah and His Rasool ρ have taught us many good things that are all sweet-smelling fruits and priceless jewels. Amongst these are to love Allaah, to love His Rasool ρ, to love the Deen, the Qur'aan, the Shari'ah, the laws of Allaah and the Sunnah of Rasulullaah ρ. We must obey Allaah and follow the Sunnah of Rasulullaah ρ regardless of what anyone else says.

We must also keep company with good people and avoid being with evil people.

We are also taught to respect our parents, to fulfil their rights and never to hurt their hearts. We must also respect all elders, have mercy on youngsters and seek knowledge. We must respect our teachers, help people in good - not in evil - and always speak the truth and fulfil our promises. We must also perform our salaah regularly, stay clean and pure, speak the truth, keep our promises and never cause harm to anyone. In addition to this, Islaam wants us to fulfil the needs of the needy, stay away from all evils, show good character to others, refrain from swearing and do our best to stay away from all sins.

We must feel sorry and concerned when we see our Muslim brothers in difficulty and do whatever we can to help them. On the other hand, when we see them happy,

we should also be happy for them. When others do wrong to us, we must never take revenge and never do wrong to them in the first place.

Dear children! These and all the many other good deeds are such colourful flowers that no garden in the world has and they are also such a treasure of priceless jewels that no other treasure in the world can compare with because all the lovely flowers of this world and the priceless jewels will come to an end in this world. If we do these various good deeds that the Shari'ah has taught us, we will receive in return such gardens of Jannah from Allaah that are filled with the sweetest smelling fruits that will never come to an end and that cannot even be imagined in this world.

We must therefore make an intention today never to leave our Deen, to call others towards it and, if need be, to even give our lives for this Deen.

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Story Five

A Problem Solved

"Jameel! Jameel" Bashir Ahmad Sahib called for his one and only son, "Get up! There is only five minutes left for Jamaa'ah to start." "Ooh! Leave me alone," Jameel moaned as he turned over on the other side."

Using a stricter tone, Bashir Ahmad Sahib again called out, "Jameel! Get up! Jamaa'ah will just now be over." There was only two and a half minutes left, so Bashir Ahmad Sahib sat Jameel up and the two hastily left for the Masjid.

"How will this problem be solved?" Bashir Ahmad Sahib thought as they hurried to the Masjid, "Jameel is now ten years old and is already reading Qur'aan and in the fifth grade at school and Madrassah. While he performs all his other salaahs, he is almost always late for the Fajr salaah with Jamaa'ah and performs it at home. Sometimes he even misses it altogether and has to perform Qadhaa."

Jameel was really a good boy and his parents had no complains against him. In fact, they never needed to shout at him. There was a Deeni environment at home and his parents and grandparents were all particular about their salaah and fasting. The only problem they had with him was the Fajr salaah because they had always been overlooking it thinking that he was just a child. Now the problem was getting serious. They always woke him up when the Adhaan was called out and after his father had performed the Sunnah Rakaahs, he would again wake Jameel up and even make him sit up. However, as soon as he left, Jameel was back in the bed and fast asleep. When Bashir Ahmad Sahib returned from salaah and woke him up again just before sunrise, Jameel would perform a

slapdash Wudhu and very hurriedly perform the four Rakaahs of Fajr.

"I think that it is time to start punishing Jameel for not performing salaah," Bashir Ahmad Sahib said to his wife as they sat down for breakfast, "He is already ten years old." Taking her son's part, the mother said, "But he has just turned ten and has not yet come of age. Salaah is not yet Fardh for him and he does perform all the other salaahs."

"Dear lady," Bashir Ahmad Sahib said, "He is unlikely to start becoming particular about salaah immediately after coming of age! We have to start making an effort from now. We have to seriously think of a solution otherwise this habit will not remain only in childhood."

Bashir Ahmad Sahib was walking home from the Masjid one morning when he called for another boy who was running in the street after performing the Fajr salaah. "Yes, uncle," the boy said as he came. "I am surprised at you," Bashir Ahmad Sahib said, "Mashaa Allaah, you are the first here everyday for the Fajr salaah, but then you are the first to leave and then go running."

"You see, uncle," the boy said, "What I actually do is that after the Fajr salaah, I do my exercises." "What an excellent thing," Bashir Ahmad Sahib exclaimed, "You have the fun of exercising together with performing your salaah in Jamaa'ah! Now as for my Jameel, it is almost impossible for him to get up early enough to be on time for the salaah with Jamaa'ah. For a long time now I have been thinking of all methods to solve the problem. You are his neighbour, please think of a solution. If you succeed, I will give you a reward."

"Do not worry, uncle," the boy said, "I shall meet him today and if Allaah wills, I will solve the problem, you

need not give me any reward. I only request for your du'aas."

After retuning from the Daarul Uloom that evening, the boy met Jameel after the Isha salaah and spoke to him for long while about the virtues of performing the Fajr salaah with Jamaa'ah as his Qaari Sahib had read for them from the *Fadhaa'ile A'maal*. He also told Jameel that although Rasulullaah ρ was so compassionate towards the Ummah, Rasulullaah ρ actually said that he wishes he could tell some people to set fire to the houses of those people who performed their salaah at home without a valid excuse.[1]

Jameel was stunned by this and felt ashamed that the boy was younger than him and went for the Fajr salaah while he slept. He then promised the boy that he would wake him up fifteen to twenty minutes before Fajr. The following day, the two arrived together for the Fajr salaah. This made Bashir Ahmad Sahib very happy.

You see, children? We must also make a promise to perform all our salaahs with Jamaa'ah and from the *Takbeer Ula*. We must also make the intention to study the Ahadeeth and sit every day when the *Fadhaa'ile A'maal* is read in the Masjid so that we learn of all the good deeds we ought to perform. We must also make sure that we take our brothers aged ten or more to the Masjid and make an effort that they fulfil all the necessary acts of Deen together with their salaah.

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[1] *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.1 Pg.163).

Dinaar Ayaar

There was a man whom the people called Dinaar Ayaar. He lived with his mother who was a pious woman and who always gave him good advice. However, he never seemed to listen to her.

He was one day passing through a graveyard, when he saw a bone lying about. When he picked it up, it crumbled in his hand. He then said to himself, "O Dinaar! You and your bones will one day become old and rotten just like these. Your bones will be separated from your body and you will be turned into sand." After saying this, Dinaar regretted how he had spent his life and begged Allaah for forgiveness, saying, "O Allaah! I hand over all my affairs to you. Please accept them and have mercy on me." He then wept bitterly and went to his mother.

"Dear mother," he said, "When a slave runs away from his master and is then caught, how does the master treat him afterwards?" She replied, "Dear son! The master then gives him coarse clothes to wear and coarse food to eat so that he does not do so again."

"Dear mother," he said further, "Take these clothes of mine and give me coarse clothing to wear. Give me also barley bread and treat me like how a person treats their slave who had run away and was caught. Perhaps Allaah will have mercy on me when he sees me in this condition."

When night came, he stayed up and cried as he said to himself, "May you be destroyed, O Dinaar! Did you think that you would be able to bear the intense heat of Jahannam and stand up to the anger of your Rabb?"

When his mother advised him to take it easy, he said to her, "Please leave me to do this so that I may have a life of ease in the life to come. I do not know what shall happen to me tomorrow when I stand before my Rabb."

"Do not make things so hard for yourself, dear son," his mother said. He then said to her, "You tell me not to burden myself so much when it may happen that you will be amongst those for whom Jannah is decorated and I shall be of those dragged to Jahannam."

His mother then left him alone. He would then make Ibaadah and recite Qur'aan all night. One night, he recited the following verse of the Qur'aan over and over again: ***"By the oath of your Rabb! We shall definitely question them all about what they used to do."***

He then fell unconscious. His mother drew close to him and said, "My love! Where shall we meet tomorrow." He said in a weak voice, "Dear mother! If you do not see me on the plain of resurrection, then ask Maalik the gatekeeper of Jahannam about me." He then gave a cry and passed away.

His mother then arranged for his burial and announced the funeral saying, "O people! Come perform the Janaazah salaah of a man whom the heat of Jahannam has killed." People then came from all over to attend the salaah. A person who was there says that he had never seen so many people for a funeral and had never seen so many tears being shed.

A close friend of his saw him in a dream. He saw him enjoying himself in Jannah wearing green clothing. There he was reciting the verse: ***"By the oath of your Rabb! We shall definitely question them all about what they used to do."***

Together with this, he said, “I swear by the honour and might of Allaah that he questioned me, had mercy on me and forgave me. Please convey this to my mother.”

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The Consequences of Deceiving

(A story to tell your younger brothers and sisters)

There were two sparrows who were sisters and who lived together. Their parents had made a nest for them to see whether they would be able to live together in peace.

The elder sparrow had learnt to cook. She therefore said to her sister, “Go and fetch some rice for our dish today, while I prepare the rest of the meal.” The little sparrow happily flew off and returned with the rice. The elder sparrow then put the pot on and it was not long afterwards that the lovely aroma of the food started to come from the pot. The aroma gave the elder sparrow the evil intention of eating all the food by herself without giving any to the little sparrow. Since she could not tell this to her sister, she said to her, “I think we need some more salt. Please go and fetch some.”

As soon as the little sparrow flew away, thinking that the two will soon be enjoying the meal together, the elder sparrow quickly ate up everything. She then put some sand in the pot, covered it and went to sleep.

When the little sparrow returned, she was surprised to see that the pot was cold and filled with sand. “Dear sister,” she said, “Where is the food and what happened to you.” The elder sparrow only said, “My eyes are aching. Leave me alone to sleep.”

The little sparrow knew that her sister often got up to mischief and often troubled her even while their parents were there. To make sure that her sister had eaten the food, she flew off to a river and carried some water back in her claws and beak. She then sprinkled this on her

sleeping sister, who naturally opened her beak to drink the water. From above, the little sparrow clearly saw the food in her mouth and knew that she was right.

She then went to complain to her parents, who scolded the elder sparrow. They gave the little sparrow some of their food and sent the elder sparrow off that night without supper. The elder sparrow begged her sister and parents for forgiveness and regretted what she had done, they all then lived happily together.

Remember children that Allaah is always watching when someone thinks that he will fool someone else. Allaah punishes the person and they suffer embarrassment in this world.

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Question 6: Before he passed away, Rasulullaah ρ told his wives that the one with the longest arms would be the first to join him. He meant that the one who gave the most Sadaqah would pass away after him. Who was that wife?

Question 7: Who was the first Sahabi τ to compile a book with the sayings of Rasulullaah ρ while Rasulullaah ρ was still alive? The book was called *Saadiqah*.

Question 8: When the Muslims were given permission to fight the Kuffaar to protect themselves, who was the first Sahabi τ to attack the Kuffaar?

Question 9: Who was the first Sahabi τ to call out the Adhaan in the Kabah?

Question 10: Who was the first Sahabi τ to start the practice of performing salaah before being martyred?

Story Eight

Listening to what you are Told

(A story for very small children)

There were three little goats who lived with their mother in a house. Whenever the mother returned home with the food she would call out to them saying, "Up, Down and On-the-Floor, please come and open the door." The youngest goat On-the–Floor would then rush and open up for her.

Like all parents who want their children to be safe from harm, she would always tell them never to open the door without first asking who it was. Even if they heard her voice asking to open the door, she reminded them, they were not to open until they peeped to see if it really was her.

She went out as usual one day to fetch food and left the three kids at home. A lion who always watched them and who always wished to have them for a meal happened to be very hungry that day. He therefore went up to the door and said in his rough voice, "Up, Down and On-the-Floor, please come and open the door." The children knew who it was and all said in one voice, "Get away, you old lion. You have no work here."

The lion was however extremely hungry and would not just give up. Realising that they recognised his voice, he went to a blacksmith nearby who worked with steel and asked him to place something in his throat to make his voice thin and fine like the mother goat.

He then returned quickly and called out in a voice just like the mother goat, "Up, Down and On-the-Floor, please come and open the door." Up and Down were busy playing

in their room and it was little On-the-Floor who jumped up to open the door. Without peeping to see who it was, he flung the door open and the lion leapt at him and swallowed him whole without even chewing. He did not follow his mother's second instruction to first see who it was. Another mistake he made was to open the door without first asking his elder brothers in the next room.

After swallowing On-the-floor, the lion ran in and was so hungry that he even swallowed Up. Down managed to hide just in time for the lion not to see him.

When the mother returned, she called out, "Up, Down and On-the-Floor, please come and open the door." There was however no answer. When she peeped in to the house, she saw the lion lying there fast asleep with no sign of the kids. She could however not enter the locked house and hurried over to the blacksmith. When the blacksmith told her that the lion had come to have his voice thinned, she realised that he must have certainly eaten her kids up. She then had her horns sharpened by the blacksmith and charged into the door. The bang of the door flying open woke the lion up, but before he could do anything, she pierced his stomach with her horns. The lion's stomach tore open and the two kids came out alive. Down then came out of his hiding place and the three were united with their mother.

Their mother was however very angry and she ought to have been because of all the trouble they had given her by not obeying her instructions. The instruction was that even if they heard the mother's voice, they were not to open until they peeped out of the door to see who it was. The kids all asked the mother to forgive them and promised never to ignore her instructions ever again.

Those children who listen to their parents will always be happy and safe because not doing so will land children in trouble and embarrassment.

Greed is a Terrible Thing

(A story for very small children)

Dear children! Greed is a most terrible habit. Greed is when you look at something another person has and you wish that you also had it. The problem with greed is that the greedy person remains worried all the time and also loses what he has. Here is a story about this.

There was a dog that once found a large bone that still had some meat on it. He felt very lucky to have found something like this without making any effort. As he walked away with the bone, he passed by a pond and saw his reflection in it. The silly dog did not realise that it was himself in the water and thought that he was seeing another dog with a large bone in its mouth.

His greed made him think that he should first eat the bone the other dog has and then eat his own. So to make the other dog frightened, he started to bark at it. However, as soon as he opened his mouth, his bone fell into the pond and he could to get it out again. Neither did he have his own bone nor any bone of another dog. Because of his greed, he was now left with nothing.

See children! We must always be grateful and content with what Allaah gives us and not wish for that which others have.

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Story Ten

The Complaint of King Banyan

"Knock! Knock! Knock!" Someone knocked on the door of the writer Jamaal Babu. At the time, Jamaal Babu's thoughts were flying in the air and his pen was grabbing them and forming them into a story. He had already written hundreds of stories for adults and for children and people loved them. He wrote about children, about people, about animals, birds and all sorts of things. Today the knocking at the door disturbed his thoughts and he was forced to get up.

"Who is that?" he said, "Do you want to break the door?"

An old postman was at the door. "Are you sleeping, Jamaal Babu?" the postman asked.

"I was not sleeping. I was busy writing a story and now you have taken all the pleasure out of it with your incessant knocking."

The postman laughed and said, "You are strange man. You are lost in your world of stories and forget all about us here. I have been knocking for the last half hour."

"That is a lie. You knocked only just now when I got up to answer the door. It seems like your brain is failing."

Jamaal Babu's last sentence made the postman very angry and he said, "You call me old when I can take on two like you."

Jamaal Babu smiled at the postman and said, "I was only joking. Please do not get angry for nothing."

"Beware never to make another joke like that or I will make you bald. Here take your letter."

Jamaal Babu took the letter from him and, as he closed the door behind him, he laughed to himself as he felt the top of his head. "Luckily its already bald," he said to himself, "because now I am already safe from the postman's threat."

Jamaal Babu looked at the brown letter and could not understand whom it could come from. "Could it be from Japan," he thought, "Or maybe from America or China? Perhaps one of my friends from there thought about me." The letter was however, a local letter and it read as follows:

Jamaal Babu

I hope that you are well, but you will not be well for very long if you do not bring your son Kamaal Urf immediately to the north of the forest. It is sad that you teach good manners to people through your books but have not taught it to you own son. Bring Kamalo to me. If you do not bring him immediately, I shall send the police to bring you two by force tomorrow.

King Banyan

"What ill mannered person could have written this?" Jamaal Babu thought. Thinking that it may be a letter from a school friend of his who liked joking in this manner, Jamaal Babu threw the letter aside and carried on with his writing.

The following day as Jamaal Babu was writing, two trees crashed through his door and made their way towards him, dropping everything that came in their way. "Are you Jamaal Babu?" one of them growled. "I am Jamaal Babu" he said, "But who are you and what do you want?"

They had hands, feet, eyes, noses, mouths and could speak like people. They even carried batons on their backs, reminding Jamaal Babu of his Ustaadh Moulana Baksh who used his baton to disciple naughty boys.

The trees did not reply. They lifted Jamaal Babu out of his seat and dragged him to a nearby forest, where they threw him at the foot of a Banyan tree. The tree was asleep but woke up when Jamaal Babu was thrown down.

"You must be Jamaal Babu, the famous writer?" the tree asked.
"B…b….b….but…wh….wh…wh….who are yy..you?" Jamaal Babu replied.

The tree shook his head and said, "You do not know me? Did you not receive my letter yesterday?"
"Are you then King Banyan?" Jamaal Babu said. Just then, two other trees brought Kamalo and threw him also by the Banyan tree. The boy ran to his father and hugged him saying, "Daddy! Daddy! Please save me from these walking trees."

"Your father cannot save you today," King Banyan told the boy as his branches and leaves shook with anger. "What have my father and I done?" Kamalo said as he clung tightly to his father.

"Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!" King Banyan laughed loudly as he said, "Your crime is that you have been injuring us trees with your knife. I have been receiving complaints from the other trees but have overlooked them until you came and engraved your name on my cheek while I was asleep. Since then, I have been planning to punish you and now that you are here, I shall not let you go. Your father's crime is that he never told you that trees also have feelings and also feel pain."

As King Banyan stopped speaking, the tree beside him said, “We give you people shade, fruit and our wood for your furniture …” As he spoke, the tree started to shake with anger and all the other trees also start to tremble with anger as they all said, “We shall not leave you! You will not be saved from us!” All the trees then came forward to attack Kamalo and Jamaal Babu. However, just as the attack began, Kamalo’s eyes opened with a fright and he sat up straight in his bed.

His body was soaked with perspiration and he ran to his father, who was busy writing stories in his bedroom. Kamalo was relieved when he saw his father and he sat on his father’s bed saying, “Lucky it was only a dream!”

The effect of the dream was that Kamalo never again engraved his name on another tree ever again.

Dear children! Although this was only a dream, Allaah used it to teach Kamalo not to harm or damage anything. We know that when we take a fruit without permission or when we damage property or write on walls, these things will never complain to us, but we know that it is wrong. We know that it is wrong to use someone’s things without permission or to prevent someone from passing where they have a right to pass. We must not do such things because it will cause us to fall into the list of sinners.

Kamalo’s bad habit of damaging things would have led to many other bad habits in later life, so Allaah used the dream to stop him from an early age. We must also take stock of ourselves and stop doing the wrongs we do from now so that we may never land into serious trouble later on.

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Good Health is Worth a Thousand Bounties

I was walking out of the Masjid after the Fajr salaah when I decided to take a walk in the park and fill my lungs with some fresh air. Although I always knew that this was good for the health, I seldom did it. I now thought that I had rather do it sometimes than not at all.

I was about to enter the park when I noticed my neighbour who was a little boy jogging there with his Ammaa Para in his hand. "As Salaamu Alaykum, dear brother!" he called out.

"Wa Alaykumus Salaam," I replied, "And what are you doing here so early?" He replied, "I come here every day after Fajr and exercise for half an hour before leaving for the Daarul Uloom."

"Without breakfast?' I asked. "I carry my food with me," he said as he showed me his little bag with two apples and two bananas. "If I have time, I have it here in the park, otherwise I have it just before class."

"And what do you do with that Ammaa Para?" I asked, "Do you exercise with that?" "Do you think I am crazy," he said, "I first put it on a high place before exercising. This is the last part of my exercise before waiting for the bus. Before you came, I was able to rehearse my lesson already fifteen times."

"And where are you busy learning at present?" I asked. "I am busy with Surah Naazi'aat right now," he replied. "Maasha Allaah!" I said, "But how did you change so fast? I remember that you never could get up before eight, that

you were always late, that you took a year and a half to complete Nooraani Qaa'idah and that neither your father nor your teacher were happy with you. What happened to change you so quickly?"

"Well!" he explained, "I never understood the purpose of my life before. I never knew why I was going to Madrassah and did not know what I was supposed to achieve. Now during the last two months, our Qaari Sahib has been reading to us the virtues of the Qur'aan and interesting stories about the Sahabah ψ. Now I know the reason for my learning. I took a year and a half to complete Nooraani Qaa'idah because I was not making an effort. Now I shall make an effort and complete an entire Para in two months Inshaa Allaah."

"Alright," I said, "Now tell me what made you start exercising in the morning?" "What encouraged me, "He explained, "was when a pious man said that good health helps in making Ibaadah."

I then saw his bus come around the corner and start to hoot for him. "Okay, brother," he said as he swung the bag over his back and ran off, "As Salaamu Alaykum."

Dear children! We must also care for our health as we study and ensure that we brush our teeth every morning, perform our salaah and then exercise. This will make our minds fresh and our bodies as well. We must also ensure that we take part in all Deeni gatherings and listen to the virtues of salaah and the Qur'aan and do our best to practise everything we hear and pass it on to others.

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Story Twelve

Those Firecrackers

Dear children! You know well that nowadays you hear and see these firecrackers and ‘bombs’ bursting all over and creating tremendous noise and disturbances. People have to shut their ears and even grown men are shocked when one bursts right next to them as they are walking somewhere. These things may often have terrible results. Here is a story about this.

There was a boy called Salmaan who was extremely intelligent, well-mannered and liked by everyone in the town. In fact, parents always told their children to be like him. His father wanted him to be Haafidh and practising Aalim and therefore enrolled him in a Daarul Uloom, where he learnt to recite the Qur'aan very quickly. A short while later, he had already memorised ten Paras. Allaah also gave him a wonderful voice and he would recite the Qur'aan most beautifully. He was also keen on participating in speech contests and his speeches always moved people. He often won the first prize as well.

He was returning home one evening in Sha’baan and had hardly walked far when there was such a loud explosion that people had to close their ears. The sound came from a large firecracker bomb that some children had placed into something on the road. When a horse on the road heard it, it was so frightened that it ran wildly in the opposite direction. Salmaan happened to be passing the same way and the frightened horse saw nothing as it trampled over him, crushing his legs and chest beneath its hooves.

It all happened so quickly that no one could save him and when he was rushed to the hospital, his body had already become paralysed and he could never walk again.

This tragedy grieved the people so much that they made a resolution never to give their children money to buy firecrackers and it was banned from their town.

Dear children! You can see that the harms of this are so terrible that it made a healthy and pleasant boy crippled for life. Besides this, it is also a waste of money that could rather be spent on the poor. Those still using it should stop for the sake of Allaah and think of how their lives would be wasted if they ever die with a cracker exploding in their faces. We must ask for Allaah's forgiveness, make a promise never to use them again and also stop others from it.

We should rather use our money to buy good books, which would be a friend for us when we are lonely and from which we can derive some benefit and good advice.

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Question 11: Which wife of Rasulullaah ρ gave her turn to be with Rasulullaah ρ to Hadhrat Aa'isha رضي الله عنها?

Question 12: Hadhrat Umar τ once saw one of Rasulullaah ρ's wives returning from the toilet at night and because he did not approve of this, Allaah revealed the verses of Purdah? Which wife of Rasulullaah ρ was this?

Question 13: Which wife of Rasulullaah ρ was not married before marrying Rasulullaah ρ?

Question 14: Which wife did Rasulullaah ρ divorce once, but because of he piety, Hadhrat Jibra'eel υ came and told Rasulullaah ρ to take her back?

Question 15: Because of which wife of Rasulullaah ρ did the Ummah receive permission to perform Tayammum?

Dear children! Whether a person is old or young, male or female, he will be good if he does good and bad if he does bad. Similarly, he will be regarded as a good person if he does good and a bad person if he does bad. One who does bad will not be called a good person just as one who does good will not be called a bad person. Furthermore, those who do good will enjoy respect in this world as well as in the Aakhirah whereas the evil ones will be disgraced both in this world as well as in the Aakhirah.

Even if one is a child, one must stay away from sins and do good deeds and never think that since I am young, people will not think that I am bad. Another bad effect of doing bad things when one is young is that these become a habit and one continues doing it throughout one’s life. Then it will be almost impossible to stop.

Dear children! It is not difficult to do good. Of course, there are some deeds that only adults can do and not children. There are also deeds that only the rich can do and not the poor. However, all deeds are not such that only some people can do them and not others. There are plenty of deeds that children and poor people can do just as well as others.

Allaah has made the Deen so easy to follow, so why should any person lose out? There are so many easy things that Rasulullaah ρ mentioned. Here are some:

“Never look down on any deed because even smiling at your brother is a good deed and pouring water into your brother’s container is also a good deed.”[1]

Rasulullaah ρ also said, “Making peace between two people is a good deed, giving someone a ride on your animal is also a good deed and taking his load on your

[1] *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.2 Pg.11).

animal is also a good deed."[1] Saying a kind word is also a good deed, every step taken to the Masjid for salaah is also a good deed and removing a thorn or stone from the road is also a good deed.

Rasulullaah ρ also said that encouraging a person to do good is Sadaqah and refraining from harming people is also Sadaqah.[2]

Dear children! How easy are these good deeds? How easy it is to smile at your brother, to pour water into your brother's container, to make peace between two people who are fighting, to take a step to the Masjid for salaah, to remove a thorn or stone from the road, to encourage a person to do good and to refrain from harming people. One needs neither money nor strength to do these things. Recite Bismillaah and do these acts and read all the du'aas for all the occasions like eating, drinking and in the morning and evening.

Dear children! Make a promise to do all of these and never think that they are nothing. Allaah will reward us plenty for them, it will create more love between us and will be a means for us doing greater things when we grow up.

How will we be able to make great sacrifices when we cannot do these little things that cost us nothing? Now draw two columns on a page and list all the good deeds you will do in one column and list all the sins you wish to leave in the other column.

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[1] *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.2 Pg.11).
[2] *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.2 Pg.11).

Fighting with Each Other

Dear children! One of the important things that our Deen teaches us is that we should never fight with each other and that we must live together with love. Allaah made us all relatives because we are all Muslims. Because of this, Muslims throughout the world are all brothers and sisters.

We have been commanded to look after this relationship and never to break it. In fact, everything that causes these relations to break is disliked in Islaam and everything that causes it to get stronger is liked very much.

Islaam therefore encourages people respecting each other, helping each other, being kind to each other, forgiving each other, making this easy for each other and being happy with the good that comes to each other. On the other hand, Islaam forbids swearing each other, having hatred for each other, being jealous of each other, mocking at each other, fighting with each other and backbiting about each other. This spoils relations between Muslims and weakens the strength of the Muslims.

Unity makes the Muslims strong and fighting causes them to weaken. That is why Allaah says, ***"Do not fight amongst each other, because this will make you cowardly and your strength will be lost."***[1]

Dear children! Islaam is one and false religions are many. The Muslims are one and the Kuffaar nations are many. When people have as many enemies as the Muslims have, they cannot afford to fight amongst themselves. They overlook each other's faults so that they can help each other against the enemy.

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[1] Surah Anfaal, verse 46.

When our fingers are apart, someone can easily hurt or twist them but when they are together, it cannot be done. They then become a fist and can hurt an enemy. People fighting amongst themselves cannot fight an enemy and people who are united can never be defeated by an enemy.

Some people once came to accept Islaam at the hand of Rasulullaah ρ. Because they were people who were never defeated by an enemy, Rasulullaah ρ asked them the reason for this. They replied that it was so because they never fought amongst each other, never were jealous of each other, never oppressed each other and always exercised patience.

Dear children! You are the youngsters of this Ummah and must make sure that you make the Ummah strong by not fighting with each other. Who will now tell this to others? Who will stop harming others? Who will forgive others immediately? Who will ask Allaah for forgiveness?

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A Pious Mother, Father and Son

The Muslims were busy preparing for the Battle of Uhud when four young men came to Rasulullaah ρ and said, "O Rasulullaah ρ! All four of us will be taking part in the battle. However, we have an old father who is crippled but insists on joining the battle. What is the ruling about him?"

Rasulullaah ρ explained to them that since their father was so old and crippled, he would be excused from taking part. They however, said, "We have already explained this to him, but he refuses to listen." "Then bring him to me," Rasulullaah ρ said.

They quickly returned who had the old man with a white beard. His name was Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ. "O Rasulullaah ρ!" he said, "May my parents be sacrificed for you! What have you to tell me?" When Rasulullaah ρ explained to him as well that it was not necessary for him to take part in the battle and that he would be rewarded for his intention, he said. "My sons have also stopped me from marching with you, but I have the desire to be killed in Allaah's path and to drag myself with this crippled leg into Jannah. For the sake of Allaah do not deprive me of this."

Seeing his sincerity, Rasulullaah ρ said to his sons, "Do not prevent him now. Perhaps Allaah has decided that he should have the honour of being a martyr."

Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ was extremely happy and when he retuned home, he made du'aa saying, "O Allaah! Do not let me return home." He then marched with the army and although the Muslims were winning the battle, a

mistake by some of the Muslims soldiers caused the Kuffaar to start getting the upper hand. It was then Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ and one of his sons fought very bravely as they penetrated the ranks of the Kuffaar soldiers. However, the Kuffaar managed to surround them and martyred them both.

When Rasulullaah ρ saw the body of Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ after the battle, he said, I can see Amr walking in Jannah with his crippled leg."

Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ's wife had a brother called Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar bin Haraam τ who was also martyred in the battle. When she was informed that her husband, son and brother had been martyred, all she asked was, "How is Rasulullaah ρ?" when they told her that Rasulullaah ρ was fine, she went before him and said, " O Rasulullaah ρ! If you are well, then all tragedies are nothing."

Dear children! Look at this family! The father insisted on fighting in the battle even though he did not have to do so. Then too, he made du'aa never to return home even though he would have been rewarded if he did return after the battle. He really wanted to be martyred and Allaah fulfilled his wish.

Then look at the mother! Although she had lost her husband, brother and son, she was more concerned about Rasulullaah ρ and was so happy to see him well that everything else did not matter any more.

It is through the blessings of these people that we have Islaam today. When we also hear the talks of Deen and make an effort, we will also have the same eagerness as they had.

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Mad About Cricket

The caretaker of the Madrassah was addressing the students saying, "Dear children! What I am telling you is that together with your studies, you must also be concerned about your health and fitness. You should all therefore take part in some sport or exercise. However, just as you would stay away from sin, you must also stay away from wasteful sports and games. Beneficial sports are swimming, archery, wrestling and for one's protection in these times, judo and karate. There must of course be no harm caused to your Deen when doing any of this. I hope that you will all do as you have been told." All of the students loudly echoed, "Inshaa Allaah!". The caretaker then left the hall.

Just like the other boys, Muneeb quickly packed his books in his bag, made Salaam and went out of the gate. His mind was still reeling about the stern manner in which the caretaker had condemned cricket. Whereas he was always a very lenient man, his sternness was very surprising.

As he crossed the main road, Muneeb was astonished to see so little traffic. In fact, the shops had closed earlier than usual and the shopkeepers who were there were more interested in watching their television screens than attending to the customers. People were crowded in the restaurants and public places to watch television.

Only when he overheard some people talking, did Muneed realise that Pakistan was playing the cricket semi final and it was this that captivated everyone's attention. Because he had never taken an interest in cricket, Muneeb did not know about the match until today.

He was soon on his way to the Masjid for Isha when he saw a page of a newspaper lying on the ground. When he bent to pick it up, the words "Yaa Allaah!" came out of his mouth because he realised that there was a picture of a living thing on the page. He closed his eyes as he picked it up because as a student of Deen, he knew that it was not permissible to draw pictures of living things and that without necessity it was also not permissible to look at them.

He therefore placed his fingers over a part of the page and when he slowly opened his eyes, he saw that his fingers were really on the place where the picture was and it was not clear at all. He then took out his pen and scribbled over the picture of the people and when he looked again at it, he could see a green stadium packed with spectators.

Although he could not see the proper picture, Muneeb noticed that an old man with a white beard was wearing the clothing of the cricketers and judging by his waving arms and movement of his body, Muneed was amazed to note that the old man was actually dancing. He could not believe how a Muslim man of that age could actually be disgracing himself in such a way. It then struck him that he had heard about an old man who always followed the cricket team about, but until now, Muneeb had never given it any thought.

Why should an old man like that be dancing and making a fool of himself? What is the matter with him? Muneeb's mind then answered, "Cricket! The madness of cricket, the love of cricket."

The caretaker's words then echoed in Muneeb's mind, "I am making it clear that just as television and video games destroy a person's life in this world and the Aakhirah, so does cricket. Cricket also destroys your character and the

Deeni education that you have. It is therefore an evil that you must stay away from."

Picturing the old man dancing with his white beard covering his chest and his hands stretched into the air made Muneeb start to cry as he said, "O Allaah! Guide the Muslim Ummah. How we have disgraced ourselves?!" He now understood what the caretaker had been saying.

Dear children! Let us be aware and never fall into the traps of the Kuffaar.

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Jailer: Do you have any problems?
Prisoner: Yes, there is no exit door

Child: Do you know that four of the eggs you brought for breakfast were duck's eggs?
Father: Really! How do you know?
Child: because when Mom was boiling then, four of them started to float on the water. They therefore must be duck's eggs.

Magistrate: Now that it cannot be proven that you did any crime, you may leave the prison in honour.

Accused man: Sir! Am I now allowed to commit a small crime for the two weeks I was kept in prison?

A man took off his coat as he entered a hotel and put it aside with a note saying, "Do not attempt to steal this coat because I am the boxing champion."
However, when he returned after eating and washing up, the coat was missing and there was a note left there which read, "Do not attempt to chase me because I am the world sprinting champion."

A friend who was irritated with another said to him, “Sit down or I will hit you so hard that you will land in Multaan.”
The other said, “Could you please hit a little less harder because I want to get off halfway in Sakkar.”

Teacher: When were you born?
Student: In 1966 B.M.
Teacher: and what does B.M. mean?
Student: It means Before Muneer, who is my younger brother.

Traveller: Why are you stopping at every station to buy a ticket for the next station?
Fellow traveller: I have no option, the doctor says that I should not undertake long journeys.

To get themselves place in a crowded coach one night, two men called out, “There is a snake in the coach!” When everyone ran away, the two took their beddings in and slept comfortably.

The next morning, they asked the porter, “Has the train reached yet?”

“What?” the porter said in surprise, “Didn’t you know that there was snake in the coach last night, so it was separated from the engine?”

Friend to bald friend: Do you have any difficulty with your baldness?

Bald Friend: The only difficulty I have is that when I start to wash my face, I don’t know where to stop.

Small in Age but Big in Allaah's Sight

Dear children! Although you may be young, there is no need to worry. Similarly, if a person is small in size or is poor, it is also no cause to be concerned because to like a person, Allaah does not look at a person's age, size or wealth.

Even while you are young, you can have great respect in Allaah's sight if you start to think like great people. When you do what pleases Allaah and stay away from sins, you will be big in Allaah's sight because people who do this are really big in Allaah's sight, even though they may be small in age or size.

Dear children! If Allaah's mercy is with you, you will have intelligence even when you are young and you will have the desire to do good deeds. There was a pious man who was walking somewhere when he saw a little boy crying. "Why are you crying?" he asked. The boy replied, "I am crying because I have heard a verse of the Qur'aan in which Allaah says, ***'O people with Imaan! Save yourselves and your families from the fire of Jahannam, the fuel of which is people and stones.'***[1] I am worried that I may be amongst the people who will be going to Jahannam."

"Do not worry," the pious man said, "It is sinful people and Kuffaar who will be going to Jahannam. Young children like you who do not sin have no worry of going to Jahannam."

The boy then said, "But I have seen that when my mother makes a fire at home, she first throws in the little sticks

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[1] Surah Tahreem, verse 6.

before the big ones. I fear that Allaah should not use little people like me first to burn the fire of Jahannam.” The pious man was surprised to hear such intelligent words from such a small boy.

There was a fisherman in Yemen who took his daughter along one day. As he caught the fish in the net, he gave it to his daughter to put in the basket. However, every time he gave her a fish, she threw it back into the river. After a while when he saw no fish in the basket, he asked her what had happened. She replied, “You have also heard that when a fish gets caught in a net, it is because it has stopped making the Dhikr of Allaah. I have thrown them all back because I do not want us to eat a fish that does not make Dhikr.” The fisherman was impressed and threw his net away.

Dear children! In the days gone by, knowledge of the Qur'aan and the Ahadeeth was commonly taught and children were always hearing them. It is because of this that their thoughts were filled with the Qur'aan and Ahadeeth and they always strived to please Allaah and to stay away from wrong.

Today, however, even the elders do not think of Allaah and are drowned in thoughts of this world. They are really not big people, but small in Allaah’s sight.

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Question 16: Which wife of Rasulullaah ρ brought a large amount of wealth with her when she married Rasulullaah ρ, which was equal to approximately 4000 silver coins?

Question 17: Which wife of Rasulullaah ρ saw Rasulullaah ρ in a grieved condition the day Hadhrat Husayn τ was martyred at Karbala?

Question 18: Which wife of Rasulullaah ρ saw in a dream that the moon had landed on her lap and when she related it to her husband Kinaanah, he slapped her saying, "I seems like you wish to marry the king of Madinah?"

Question 19: Which wife of Rasulullaah ρ was chosen for him by Allaah after she had been divorced from Hadhrat Zaid bin Haaritha τ?

Question 20: Which wife of Rasulullaah ρ passed away at the age of 81 at the same place where she married Rasulullaah ρ?

Fasting

There may be many of you who fast during the month of Ramadhaan. Even though it is not Fardh (obligatory) for you to do so, you do it only to please Allaah. The family also looks after the little child who is fasting and specially fry "samoosas" and make other delicious foods for them. Therefore, they have an Eid every day even before Eid arrives.

However, is Ramadhaan only about eating well at Sehri and Iftaar? No. not at all! Ramadhaan is a month of Ibaadah and a month in which we should remember the favours of Allaah and thank Him for them.

Ramadhaan in the month in which the Qur'aan was revealed to Rasulullaah ρ , so we should make an effort to recite the Qur'aan as much as possible during this month. You may know of many children becoming Haafidh of the Qur'aan. Imagine what great rewards they would be getting for reciting the Qur'aan all day in their Madrassahs!

Regardless of what the world says, the Haafidh of the Qur'aan has a very great status. Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah τ reports that Rasulullaah ρ said that although jealousy is not permissible, it is allowed only in the case of a person given the knowledge of the Qur'aan and who recites it all day and night so that his neighbours wish that they could also be like him. The other person about whom one can be jealous is someone who has been given plenty of wealth and who spends it freely in the right avenues so that other people wish that they may do the same.[1]

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[1] *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.2 Pg.228).

So in Ramadhaan, eat well and also do good deeds abundantly. Your parents, brothers and sister will be so happy to know that a little child is doing so much and will be good to you and give you many things to eat and enjoy. Now think! If this is what people do, what about Allaah for Whom you are fasting, for Whom you are reciting Qur'aan, for Whom you are performing the Taraaweeh? He will certainly make you happy in this world and also in the Aakhirah.

Another thing to mention is that you must remember us elders when making du'aa. Something else that we wish to say to the elders is that children should be made to fast when they are ten years of age and not sooner. We must also stay away from all the customs people practise when a child keeps the first fast. While it is alright to make a few extra things for the child's Iftaar, but we must not arrange lavish meals and invite many people just for show.

Rewards can be Attained even by Playing

Dear children! Our Deen is so wonderful that it caters for the young and the old and considers all their permissible desires as well. In fact, the acts of Deen are such that they often allow a person to fulfil many of these desires (making his heart happy) and also allows him to earn rewards at the same time. Muslims therefore benefit in this world as well as in the Aakhirah.

Play and Learning

Dear children! You may think that your elders only stress on learning all the time. All day, they are talking of learning, studying and making an effort for this. Although

learning is extremely important, Islaam allows us to play as well. In fact, it commands us to exercise.

The best of things to learn is the Qur'aan and the best forms of play are archery, swimming and horse-riding. The famous Hadith in which Rasulullaah ρ said, "The best of you is he who learns and teaches the Qur'aan."[1] This makes it clear that those who learn the Qur'aan and those who teach it are the best of all people.

Dear children! We must therefore regard the learning of the Qur'aan as the most important of our studies and apply ourselves to it. When the time then comes for play, we must play the sports mentioned above because Rasulullaah ρ encouraged people to take part in them and to teach them to their children. In addition to remaining fit and active, we will also earn rewards.

Hadhrat Abu Raafi τ reports that he asked Rasulullaah ρ, "Do we owe any rights to our children as they owe rights to us?" Rasulullaah ρ replied, "Yes. The rights you owe them is that you have to teach them to write, to swim, to use a bow-and-arrow and you must also ensure that you make them heirs of good (not Haraam) wealth."[2]

Hadhrat Khaalid bin Waleed τ said, "We have been commanded to teach our children archery and the Qur'aan."

Rasulullaah ρ also said, "Teach archery and the Qur'aan to your children. Remember that the best moment for a Mu'min is the moment spent in the Dhikr of Allaah."[3]

Hadhrat Sa'd bin Abi Waqqaas τ narrates that Rasulullaah ρ said, "Ensure that you practise archery because this is the best of sports for you."

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[1] *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.2 Pg.225).
[2] Bayhaqi.
[3] Ibn Asaakir.

Another Hadith states that from all forms of sport, the angels present themselves only for horse-riding and archery. Another Hadith says that all forms of sport and play are a waste of time except for these. (We must therefore play only those sports that our pious elders recommend).

Dear children! Muslims do only that which pleases Allaah and Rasulullaah ρ. You are all good Muslim children and good Muslim children study well and play also. However, they do not play when it is time for studies and never play any games that are sinful. They study when it is time to study and play when it is time to play. The best of studies is the Qur'aan and the best of games and play are those that the Shari'ah allows.

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The Trap of Kufr

Dear children! Allaah has granted us Imaan and this Deen of Islaam, which are very great favours on us. Abiding by the commands of the Deen, doing good, making an effort for the Deen and for unity are all also great favours that Allaah has bestowed on us.

However, dear children, Shaytaan hates all these favours for us because he is our open enemy. It hurts him when a person becomes a Muslim, when a Muslim does good and when any effort for the Deen is taking place. He had declared to Allaah that he would do his best to lead people astray and to keep them far from Allaah. Allaah has warned us over and over again in the Qur'aan to beware of Shaytaan's traps. He is always making an attempt to rob us of this precious gift of Imaan and if a person is a pious person, Shaytaan will make an attempt to get him to reduce his good deeds.

Dear children! Shaytaan is a dangerous enemy and he is not alone in his efforts to mislead people. All of his progeny are also helping him. They are extremely cunning and use many tricks to fool people. They may even come in the form of a friend and a good person to mislead you and are very successful nowadays. They have already misled many young and old people from the Deen and from the ways of Rasulullaah ρ. Shaytaan has used his many schemes through the Jews and the Christians who are also great enemies of the Muslims. They then spread these traps throughout the Muslim countries to take Muslims away from Islaam and from the love of Allaah and His Rasool ρ.

Remember dear children that a hunter always uses traps that look like part of the ground and the surroundings so that the prey will not be able to see it. Similarly, Shaytaan

uses his friends like America, Britain, France, Israel and other nations to use sports and forms of education as traps to mislead Muslims from their Deen. Muslims then do not even realise that these are really traps to deprive them of their Deen and their Imaan.

Dear children! Some of these traps are the television, VCR, internet, films, drama, immoral programmes, dances and new year celebrations, all of which Shaytaan's friends and agents have spread throughout the world.

Dear children! You think that cricket is so much fun and people ask what can be wrong with it. Such questions are themselves from Shaytaan. Do you not see that when a cricket match starts, the entire nation turns their attention to it? Although it can be expected from children, but we see that even adults and women leave everything they are doing to watch the match and hear what is happening. In fact, in all this excitement, many even forget about their salaah.

Children then do not listen to their parents, they leave their studies and even forget to eat. While there is no harm in playing a sport to keep fit, going mad for it is wrong. The purpose of all of this is to make children and young people so involved in sport that they forget about their Deen and their purpose of life.

The traps of Shaytaan and his agents include the television, cinemas, theatres, satellite television, night clubs and the schools that are the fashion today where boys and girls attend classes together and where men teach girls and women teach boys. The purpose of all of this is to make Muslims forget their Deen, to make them lose their love for Allaah and Rasulullaah ρ and to stop following the ways of their pious elders.

Dear children! To save yourselves from these traps of Shaytaan, you must do the following three things:

1. Make plenty of du'aa and Istighfaar
2. Do everything after asking advice from the pious elders of the community
3. Talk to people about Imaan and Aakhirah.

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Ill Treating an Idol

Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ was an old companion of Rasulullaah ρ. He lived in Madinah and was very wealthy and also very generous. Before accepting Islaam, he had a wooden idol that he loved very much. He decorated the idol and worshipped it every morning and evening. It was during the thirteenth year after Rasulullaah ρ announced his Nabuwwaat that many people in Madinah started to accept Islaam.

Amongst those who accepted Islaam was Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ's son Mu'aadh τ. Because Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ was adamant not to accept Islaam, his son and a few other Muslims thought of a way to get him to dislike his idol. They therefore used to take away his idol at night and then throw it head first into one of the pits they used as a rubbish dump. In the mornings, Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ used to say, "Woe be to those who have manhandled our god last night!" He would then go looking for the idol. When he found it, he would wash it, clean it thoroughly and apply perfume to it. Thereafter, he would say, "I swear by Allaah that if I found out who did this, I would certainly disgrace him." However, as soon as Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ went to sleep, the youngsters again repeated their deed.

One day, when they had carried out their deed once too often for him, he took the idol out from where they had thrown it after cleaning it and applying perfume, he hung his sword around its neck. He then said to it, "By Allaah! I have no idea who is doing this to you. However, if you have the courage, you should defend yourself for you now have this sword with you." When night fell and Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ went to sleep, the youngsters again seized the idol and after removing the sword from its

neck, they tied a dead dog to it and threw it into an unused well that was full of rubbish.

The following morning when Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ did not find the idol in its place, he went out in search of it and found it lying on its head in the well with the dead dog tied to it. He then realised that something that cannot look after itself can do him, no good either. As he walked back home, he related the incident to a friend who had already accepted Islaam. The friend said, "You are unnecessarily making a target for jokers because your idol can neither do you any harm nor any good. Give it up to worship Allaah and to follow His Rasool ρ."

Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ had by then already given up hope in his idol and accepted Islaam immediately. His wife and son had by then already accepted Islaam and later his other sons also accepted Islaam. His entire family was therefore blessed with the wealth of Imaan.

Dear children! See how making fun of someone actually became a means of Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh τ accepting Islaam. We must remember that when we joke with people, it must be done in a way that does not hurt anyone because if it does hurt the person, it is not fun.

Remember also that when we see anyone committing a sin, we must first explain to them with love and wisdom or get someone close to them to explain to them. We must never take something of a person's away, break it or throw it away. We must talk to people in such a way that they themselves decide to give up the sin.

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Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 21: Name the two wives of Rasulullaah ρ who passed away during his lifetime?

Question 22: Which wife of Rasulullaah ρ was from the progeny of Hadhrat Haaroon υ, who was the brother of Hadhrat Moosa υ?

Question 23: Who did Rasulullaah ρ marry after Hadhrat Khadeejah τ passed away?

Question 24: There are over forty opinions about what the name of Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah τ was. Which opinion is most famous?

Belief in the Aakhirah

There was a very pious woman in a certain town whom the people called "*Ammaa Jee*". She passed away recently and everyone in town was grieving over her death. There was not a person who did not have good words to say about her. While some said that she never left her home, others were saying that she never missed a single salaah. It was also she taught who had countless children in the town to recite the Qur'aan properly. People were making du'aa saying, "O Allaah! Forgive her, accept her good deeds, save her from the punishment of the grave and grant her *Jannatul Firdous* in the Aakhirah."

Nu'maan was a little boy who had learnt to recite the Qur'aan from *Ammaa Jee* and was now becoming a Haafidh. Although he had heard people speak about punishment, the grave, Aakhirah and Jannah, he had never given thought to these words and now that he heard people say them at the funeral, he became interested in knowing about them. He was also wondering why *Ammaa Jee* had become so quiet all of a sudden and why people were bathing her, dressing her in white clothing and taking her to the graveyard. He thought that he had to ask his grandfather that night.

That night, he took his brothers Aasim, Saalim, Umayr and Khubayb with him as their grandfather went to his room. There they told him that they could not sleep. When he asked them the reason, Nu'maan was the first to speak. "Tell us what is this Jannah, Aakhirah, punishment and grave all about," he asked. The others all confirmed that they also wanted to know. "Well," grandfather said, "if you want to know such an important thing, you must all sit down quietly."

When they were all seated, their grandfather said, "Dear children! There are two types of people in this world. The first group are those who do good deeds. They worship Allaah and serve the creation. The other group are those who disobey Allaah and cause harm and corruption on earth. If the two groups were left as they are, the second group will always oppress the first group. Allaah has therefore created another world called the Aakhirah where people will go after they die and leave this world. There the good will be rewarded for their good deeds and the evil will be punished for their sins.

Dear children! Just as we believe that Allaah is One, we must also believe in the next world to come after this world. After a person dies, he is placed in a grave where two angels arrive and ask him some questions about his life. If he is a good person, he will be able to answer the questions easily and will then rest in peace in the grave. If he is an evil person but died as a Muslim, it will be difficult for him to answer. He may then be punished in the grave and it will narrow for him and snakes and poisonous reptiles will bite him all the time. As for the Kaafir, he will have no reply to give and will cry out, 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I do not know.'"

"Think of the grave as the first stage where the good will be rewarded and the bad will be punished. If one is at ease here, he will be at ease during the rest of the stages and if he is in difficulty here, he will be in difficulty throughout."

"Grandfather," Nu'maan asked, "Is there another world after the grave?" "Yes," grandfather replied, "after this comes the world that we call the Aakhirah. However, before the Aakhirah comes the Day of Qiyaamah. On this day, the entire world will be destroyed and no plan, no security and no theory of science will help anyone. Even the most solid buildings will crumble to the ground. The sky will split, the stars, sun and moon will lose their light

and the earth will shake just like you break your sandcastles with your hands."

Saalim, who had been listening with great interest then said innocently, "Then we will also not remain alive?" The other children started to laugh, but grandfather just smiled and said, "That it what I am explaining to you. Everything in this world will come to an end. Don't you see that when you buy a new pencil, you then sharpen it over and over again until it is eventually finished? You buy a new book today and after some time you will see that its pages start to tear and fall apart until it is no more. Similarly, you see a plant grow up as a small shoot, later becoming a plant and then a large tree. People then cut it down and burn it up in their fires. Just as everything in this world comes to an end, we will also soon come to an end."

"What I forgot to tell you is that an angel called Hadhrat Israafeel υ will blow a trumpet on the Day of Qiyaamah, because of which everything will come to an end. He will later blow it again and then all of creation from the time of Hadhrat Aadam υ will rise from their graves and will stand before Allaah to answer for everything they did during their lives. Allaah will ask everyone what they did with their youth they were given, how they earned and spent their wealth and whether they practised on their knowledge. People will also receive their books of deeds. Those who will be successful will receive their books in their right hands and the unsuccessful ones will receive their books in their left hands. They will then be taken to Jahannam."

"How can a person be saved from Jahannam?" Umayr asked. Grandfather replied, "By obeying Allaah, following Rasulullaah ρ, staying away from lies, stealing, backbiting and indecent acts and by showing respect to elders and being kind to those younger than you. We must also always beg Allaah for forgiveness and ask Him to save us

from Jahannam. Today I will teach you a du'aa to recite whenever you remember and especially after every salaah. It is a part of a verse of the Qur'aan. It is:

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

"O our Rabb, grant us *(all that which is)* **good in this world,** *(all that which is)* **good in the Aakhirah and save us from the punishment of the fire** *(of Jahannam)***."**

There is also a du'aa taught in the Ahadeeth. It is:

أَللّهُمَّ أَجِرْنِي مِنَ النَّار

O Allaah! Save me from the fire of Jahannam"

Recite this du'aa seven times after the Fajr and Maghrib salaahs before speaking to anyone.

Now go and sleep well because I shall be asking you these du'aas tomorrow."

Thinking of Qiyaamah

The next morning, the children all ran to grandfather's room to hear his fascinating talks. Grandfather first took Aasim in his arms and asked, "Let me hear the du'aa I taught you yesterday." Aasim was waiting for this and immediately recited:

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

Grandfather was very happy and said, "Congratulations!" Another of the boys then recited to him the du'aa:

أَللّهُمَّ أَجِرْنِي مِنَ النَّار

Grandfather then continued, "The Day of Qiyaamah will be a very difficult day. In fact, the Qur'aan states that on that day people will not think of their relatives. They will forget

about their parents, children, brothers and sisters and not even worry about their condition because everyone will be worried only about himself. When they see the punishment of Jahannam, people will actually wish that their relatives should be put into Jahannam rather than themselves.

"Rasulullaah ρ said that there are three places where no person will think of another. The first is at the scales when no one knows whether their good deeds will weigh heavier than their sins. The second place is when people will be given their books of deeds and when the Mu'min will be given his in his right hand, he will go to others to show them his book. The third occasion will be at the bridge of Siraat that passes over Jahannam and which every person will be commanded to cross."[1]

It was Aasim who then asked, "I heard that when people will stand before Allaah to answer for their actions, the parts of their bodies like their hands and legs will talk about what they did. How will they talk when they have no tongues?"

"Dear son!" grandfather said, "We believe that Allaah can do whatever He pleases because He has power over all things. Any part of the body will therefore speak if Allaah commands it to. Our tongues are themselves just pieces of flesh just like the other parts of our bodies, so when Allaah commands any of them to talk, they will be able to do so just as well as the tongue. This has been written in the books of our elders."

"Rasulullaah ρ mentioned that a person (a hypocrite) will appear before Allaah and say, 'O Allaah! I believed in You, in Your Book and in Your Ambiyaa عليهم السلام and I also performed salaah, fasted and gave Sadaqah.' Besides this, he will speak of many other good deeds that he did. Allaah

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[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.486).

will then tell him to wait, saying that He will bring some witnesses. The man will wonder who these witnesses could be and will be surprised when Allaah puts a seal on his mouth and commands the parts of his body to speak. His limbs, flesh and bones will then speak so that the man will have no excuse when he is punished."[1]

"So Qiyaamah will really be a day of difficult questioning?" Nu'maan said. "Certainly," grandfather confirmed, no person will move from the spot until he answers the following five questions Allaah puts to him:

1. What did you do with the life I gave you?
2. How did you spend your youth?
3. How did you earn your wealth?
4. Where did you spend this wealth?
5. Did you practise on the knowledge I gave you?

However, if Allaah wills, He will allow some people to enter Jannah without asking them any questions. You must therefore recite the following du'aa:

أَللَّهُمَّ حَاسِبْنِي حِسَاباً يَّسِيْراً

O Allaah! Grant me an easy reckoning

An easy reckoning means that Allaah will only glance at a person's book of deeds and then overlook everything. The Hadith tells us that when Allaah starts to question a person, the person will be destroyed. The person who will be saved from the reckoning will be those who passed away after asking forgiveness from Allaah.

[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.485).

Jahannam

Dear children! You have learnt already that we should believe in One Allaah, in Rasulullaah ρ, in Jannah, Jahannam and the Aakhirah. Without believing in all of this, a person will not be a Muslim. You already know also that good people will be rewarded by going to Jannah and the evil ones will be punished in Jahannam.

Jannah is for those people who believe in the things that the Ulema have written in their books and who spend their lives obeying Allaah and doing as he commands. On the other hand, Jahannam is for those people who do not believe in Allaah and who do evil. Although such people also get punished in this world, Allaah has prepared a severe one for them in the Aakhirah. Rasulullaah ρ told us that the fire of Jahannam is seventy times more severe than the fire of this world.[1]

Does anyone like to burn himself in the fire of this world? When some people burn to ashes with the fire of this world, imagine what will happen with the fire of Jahannam! During summer we see that people do everything they can to keep the heat away. They look for shade, use fans and air conditioners because they cannot bear the heat. The heat of Jahannam is so severe that even the sun gets its heat from it.

Rasulullaah ρ said that the person who will suffer the least punishment in Jahannam will be someone who will be given sandals of fire to wear, the straps of which will also be made of fire. Because of this, his brains will boil like how a pot boils on a stove. Although his punishment will be the least of all the people, he will think that none is suffering as much as him.[2]

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[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.502).
[2] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.502).

Jahannam is a terrible place that we must all beg Allaah to save us from it. We must recite the following du'aa:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذ بِكَ مِن عَذَابِ الْقبر و عَذابِ جَهَنَّم

O Allaah! I seek your protection from the punishment of the grave and the punishment of Jahannam.

A Hadith tells us that Allaah allows Jahannam to hear these du'aas of the people and Jahannam also makes du'aa saying, "O Allaah! Save him (the person making this du'aa) from the Fire."

Jannah

Grandfather continued, "Dear children! If there was no Aakhirah where the good are rewarded and the evil are punished, everyone will be the same in this world. Those who spend the night in salaah will be the same as those who spend the night watching indecency on television and those spending the night stealing from people."

"Take the example of yourself in a Madrassah. Your parents make du'aa for your success and you make a great effort throughout the year and also to do well in the exams. Your parents even promise to buy you something like a bicycle if you come out first in class. Therefore, when the results come out and you see in your report that you have attained a good position, you take it to show everyone and your parents and teachers are all happy for you."

"However, there are those children who play all the time when they ought to be learning. They make no effort to study and watch television most of the nights of the exams. Now when such a child fails the exams, you can imagine how angry and disappointed his parents and teachers become. The same is the situation with Allaah

and His servants. Allaah has promised them Jannah if they do good deeds. Now what is this Jannah. Listen well!"

"Jannah is the place where good people go. There they will have no worries or difficulty and will live in peace and comfort. Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

We will soon enter those who have Imaan and who carry out good actions into Jannaat beneath which rivers flow, where they shall live forever and ever. The promise of Allaah is true. Who can be more truthful in speech than Allaah?[1]

The Qur'aan and Ahadeeth contain many descriptions of what the good people will receive in Jannah. They will have large gardens and such large trees there that it would take a fast horse five hundred years to run through the shadow of the tree. There will be varieties of fruit there and rivers of milk, honey and delicious drinks that they will enjoy whenever they want. They will never get hungry, thirsty or feel hot, cold or ill in Jannah."

"Whatever we know of Jannah, Jahannam, the grave and the Aakhirah has been told to us by Rasulullaah ρ. Rasulullaah ρ even mentioned that if a woman of Jannah has to just peep into this world, the entire space between this world and the heavens will be filled with light and all of it will be filled with her fragrant perfume."

"Rasulullaah ρ also told us that although the people of Jannah will eat and drink, they will not develop phlegm, have no mucous and will not need to relieve themselves. When the Sahabah ψ asked what will then happen to their food, Rasulullaah ρ said that they will only perspire and that the perspiration will smell better than musk.[2]"

The children had been listening with great interest when Saalim suddenly asked, "Grandfather! But you have not

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[1] Surah Nisaa, verse 122.
[2] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.496).

told us what Jannah is made of." Grandfather smiled and affectionately passed his hand over Saalim's head saying, "This also Rasulullaah ρ has told us. He said that the bricks of the buildings will be of gold and silver and that the cement between them will be fragrant musk. He also said that the pebbles of Jannah will be pearls and precious stones, while the grass will be saffron."

"Will anyone ever want to leave such a lovely and comfortable place? Never! And no one will ever need to because people will live in Jannah forever and ever. Rasulullaah ρ told us that when a person of Jannah will see a bird flying and wish that he could have it roasted, it will immediately be presented roasted to him in a platter. After eating it and throwing the bones back on the platter, Allaah will command the flesh to return to the bones and the bird will fly away again. Subhaanallaah! Can anything in this world ever happen merely by wishing for it? In fact, when a person of Jannah wishes to do some farming just for fun, he will plant the seed and it will immediately grow into a plant ready to be harvested.

All the pious and good people of the world will also be there in Jannah and we will actually be able to visit Rasulullaah ρ. Even better than this is that in Jannah we will even be able to see our beloved Allaah Who gives us everything in this world. What more can we ask for?"

Grandfather was still busy speaking when Khubayb interrupted by asking, "Do tell us how we may reach Jannah and when we may be able to do so?"

The easiest way to get to Jannah is to ask Allaah for forgiveness and make up your mind never to make Allaah angry. The first thing to do is never to miss any salaah, to fast if it is Fardh (obligatory) upon you, to give Sadaqah, to obey and serve your parents and to do all good deeds while staying away from all sins. At the same time, always

make du'aa for Allaah to save you from Jahannam and to enter you into Jannah."

A Good Friend

You all may be having some friends. You may be having friends who are your neighbours, friends at school, friends at Madrassah and many others. However, the friends to have are those who are pious, who perform their salaah, who are interested in their studies and who obey their parents and elders and who stay away from sinful acts and sinful places. You will be very fortunate to have such friends, especially nowadays when such friends are very rare.

Most of the friends nowadays are interested only in TV, movies, cricket and other wasteful and sinful activities. Many of them will be seen playing cricket in the morning, playing cricket in the afternoon and playing cricket at night as well. They even forgo their salaah playing cricket and will use any spare time for it. There are also those who sit beside the streets and talk nonsense all day, who will be quick to attend sinful functions and will run far away from functions where good is discussed.

Unfortunately, a new evil has started nowadays in which people are wasting away their valuable lives. The evil is to sit in nightclubs all night like the Kuffaar do. Do we never get tired of licking up the spit of the Kuffaar? May Allaah save us all from such friends who destroy others as they destroy themselves as well. They neither care for their parents nor for the Deen of Allaah.

Dear children! When you go to a garden of flowers or to a perfume shop, you will find sweet fragrances. However, if you go to a rubbish dump or sewer, you will find terrible stenches and not fragrances. The same applies to friends. Rasulullaah ρ said that a person will follow the ways of his

friends and should therefore watch who his friends are. When a person keeps evil friends, he will also start to develop evil habits and ways. However, if he keeps the company of good friends, he will also learn good habits.

Every person wants others to think that he is a good person and wants respect. You will however never be regarded as a good person worthy of respect if you keep company of bad friends. If your friends are bad people, people will think that you are the same.

Dear children! Never think that if you are pious, you will not be affected by bad company because you will certainly be affected in some way or another. Look at the son of Hadhrat Nooh υ. Although he was the son of a Nabi, he was drowned with the Kuffaar. The reason for this was that he always kept company with the Kuffaar and was affected by their evil ways.

In fact, when Allaah speaks of the time when the Queen Bilqees accepted Imaan at the hands of Hadhrat Sulaymaan υ, Allaah says that she had been from amongst the Kuffaar. Ulema state that this means that although she was an intelligent woman who had the ability to recognise Allaah, she worshipped the sun only because she had been living with the Kuffaar and had therefore started to do what they were doing.

You may have heard the story of the people of the cave, which is mentioned in Surah Kahaf. The story is a long one, which you should ask your learned Ulema about. However, the people of the cave were pious youngsters who left the place where they lived because the people there were Kuffaar. They then went to a cave where Allaah made them sleep for a very long time. As they slept, their dog kept watch at the entrance of the cave. Now although it was just a dog that Muslims are not allowed to keep as pets, it has been mentioned in the Qur'aan because it stayed in the company of pious people.

Dear children! Keeping the company of bad people always has bad results and will eventually destroy a person. If a person wants to be successful in this world and in the Aakhirah, he should keep company with good and pious people and attend the gatherings and lectures of pious people. What we learn from them we should pass on to others because since no Nabi will come after Rasulullaah ρ, it is our duty to pass the message of good on to others.

Dear children! You have learnt a lot about the Aakhirah, Jannah, Jahannam, the Day of Qiyaamah and about keeping good friends. Now say about ten or twelve easy sentences about these to your friends and also state eight or ten advantages of having good friends.

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O Allaah! Save us from the Evil of Shaytaan

The students had all left thier bags in the classrooms and were leaving the class for the assembly area. Saleem was the last to leave and when he saw all the bags lying there unattended, his eyes gleamed as an evil thought crossed his mind. This was the perfect opportunity. He quietly opened Khubayb's bag, took out his expensive geometry set and put it in his own bag.

He then hurried off to the assembly area, where the boys were being paraded like soldiers. After making Salaam and passing through the gardens, they reached the classroom, where they all took their seats. The first period was geometry and when the teacher arrived, he wrote the exercise on the board and all the children took out their geometry sets.

Khubayb searched his bag for his geometry set, but was surprised when he could not find it. This was the first time that he would be so embarrassed in front of the teacher. As the others did their work, the teacher saw that Khubayb was looking worried and doing nothing. He went over and asked the reason for his concern. Khubayb explained that he could not find his geometry set. "Did you not leave it at home?" the teacher asked. "No, sir," Khubayb replied because he was sure that he had put it in his bag that morning.

The teacher then had the boys search all the bags. As they went through the bags, the teacher noticed that Saleem was shuffling about in distress. He immediately realised the cause for Saleem's distress and had the search of all the bags called off so that Saleems' bag could

be searched. As the teacher expected, the geometry set came out of the bag.

The teacher told Saleem nothing that day, but at the assembly the following day he called for Saleem in front of all the students. After delivering a short speech, the principal asked the boys to look at the innocent appearance of Saleem who carried out the acts of Shaytaan. He then related the incident of the theft and told all the boys to tell Saleem in one voice that stealing is a terrible sin. This was a greater punishment than any other and as he fell in the eyes of all the boys, Saleem bit his lips in embarrassment. He wished that the ground would just swallow him up where he stood. He then started to cry.

It was then that he heard the voice of the head teacher say to him, "Can you now imagine what it would be like on the Day of Qiyaamah when a sinner will be called before all of creation and told that he would be punished for his sins? If we cannot face the embarrassment of this world, can we imagine how it will be then? Yet we are not ashamed of disobeying Allaah, missing our salaah and stealing?"

These words stuck in Saleem's mind and he made up his mind never to do such a thing again. He walked back to the classroom and asked Khubayb to forgive him. Khubayb was brought up well and not only forgave him sincerely, but also insisted that he accept the geometry set as a gift. Khubayb however made the condition that Saleem stay away from sins and recite the following du'aa after every salaah:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أعُوذ بكَ مِن شَرِّ نَفْسِي و مِن شَرِّ الشَّيْطان

O Allaah! I seek your protection from the evil of myself and from the evil of Shaytaan.

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Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 25: What was Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ's real name?
Question 26: What was Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood τ's title?
Question 27: What was Hadhrat Ja'far τ's title?
Question 28: What was the real name of Hadhrat Abu Ayyoob Ansaari τ?
Question 29: What was the real name of Hadhrat Abu Bakrah τ?

Story Nineteen

Childhood of Some Elders

(PART ONE)

Every child grows up into an adult, but the childhood of every person is different. Every person who grew up to be a saint, a great person or a Mujaahid had some special incidents in their childhood days, which we will be hearing about in the pages that follow.

We must take lessons from these incidents and remember that to be successful in this world and the Aakhirah, we must try to follow their examples.

Hadhrat Sheikh Saadi رحمه الله says, "When I was a little boy, I went with my father to the Eid festival. However, I left his side and got lost. I then started to cry and when my father found me, he twisted my ear and scolded me for leaving his side. This incident stuck to my mind to this day and guided me throughout my life. I learnt from this that the person who leaves the side of the pious people will get lost in the festival of this world."

Dear children! When a child is born, he is the light of his parents eyes. However, because he is grown up in the lap of his mother, it often happens that children are spoilt by their mothers and then become stubborn and cry for every little thing. The stories of the pious teach us that when children are not stubborn and do not cry for every little thing, they benefit greatly afterwards.

It may have happened some years ago that when your mother gave all you children milk to drink, you were stubborn and wanted all for yourself. Your elder brother then drank his share and yours as well. Although this will

end here for us, Hadhrat Moulana Rasheed Ahmad Gangohi رحمه الله said that such an incident taught him that being stubborn will cause you to lose even what is yours. He therefore never behaved stubbornly throughout his life.

Dear children! We must also make an attempt to get rid of all the evils we have in ourselves and when someone tells us about a bad habit in us, we must never argue about it, but rather listen and make an effort to change ourselves. Such a person is really our true friend and not an enemy.

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Childhood of Some Elders

(PART TWO)

When a person is important in this world, who could have known when he was a little child just how far the branches of this little plant would spread. No gardener can tell what a plant will grow into because this is not written on the plant.

Dear children! The stories of the pious people that we will be hearing are not merely to pass time, but for us to copy and to take lesson. We should not listen to them merely to memorise them because then there are many other stories that we can memorise. All the people who related the stories and all those who wrote them did not do so to waste time, but so that we may take heed to them. It is for the same reason that we are told about the stories of Rasulullaah ρ. If we start to follow in the footsteps of these great people, we will soon have success kissing our feet. It is said that the nation that forgets its past will never be successful in the future.

Hakeemul Ummah Hadhrat Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi رحمه الله never played with the children in the streets because he was interested in Deen from a young age. When he would pass by a Masjid, he would always go inside and recite something at the pulpit before leaving.

He used to get up at night at the age of twelve or thirteen to perform the Tahajjud salaah and recite Qur'aan and du'aas. In fact, when he was just eleven or twelve years of age, his uncle (mother's brother) asked Moulana Ashraf Ali رحمه الله whether his aunt (the uncle's wife) was Mahram to him or not. From that day, Hadhrat Moulana started to observe proper Purdah from his aunt. Although his grandmother felt sorry that a young boy should engage in

so much Ibaadah, the fire of Allaah's love was already burning so brightly within him.

Dear children! Will you also have this great love for Allaah or will you rather be swept away in this age of immodesty? Do make Taubah to Allaah and think about whether you prefer good or harm for yourselves.

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Knowledge

- Only people of knowledge fear Allaah (Qur'aan)
- Compete with each other in acquiring knowledge (Hadith)
- Knowledge is the inheritance that the Ambiyaa عليهم السلام leave behind (Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ)
- Acquire knowledge before becoming a saint (Hadhrat Umar τ)
- Knowledge is the path to the treasures of Deen (Hadhrat Uthmaan τ)
- The heart gets light through knowledge (Hadhrat Ali τ)
- Knowledge without practise is like a body without a soul (Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله)
- Knowledge is a light that Allaah places in the heart (Imaam Maalik رحمه الله)
- Taqwa is necessary for acquiring knowledge (Imaam Ahmad bin Hambal رحمه الله)
- Acquiring knowledge is better than carrying out Nafl acts (Imaam Shaafi'ee رحمه الله)

The First Sword in Islaam

A twelve year old boy was carrying a sword and walking quickly through the heat of the desert. Nothing around bothered him as he moved out of the town, his face red with anger. He was looking left and right for someone and suddenly leapt behind a boulder as he sensed someone approaching. He held the sword even tighter, but when he saw who the person was, his face lit up with joy. The person asked with affection, "Dear son! What are you doing here at this hour?" "I was looking for you," the boy replied.

The boy's name was Zubayr, his father was Awwaam and his mother was Rasulullaah ρ's aunt Safiyya.

What had happened was that Hadhrat Zubayr τ had heard the rumour that the Kuffaar had captured Rasulullaah ρ and taken him to the mountains. Although he was only twelve, he took a sword and went to help Rasulullaah ρ. Rasulullaah ρ asked, "If you had found me a captive, what would you have done?" The twelve year old Hadhrat Zubayr τ replied, "I would have killed them all until their blood made streams." Rasulullaah ρ smiled at the bravery of this young boy and gave him his shawl as a gift.

Allaah was also pleased with him and Hadhrat Jibra'eel υ immediately came down from the heavens and said, "Allaah conveys his Salaams to you O Rasulullaah ρ and to Zubayr. Give Zubayr the good news that the reward of every person using a sword in the path of Allaah until Qiyaamah will be given to him as well because he is the first person to carry a sword in the path of Allaah."

Rasulullaah ρ loved this act of bravery because Rasulullaah ρ was himself a brave person. Rasulullaah ρ did not like laziness and cowardliness, so we must ensure that we do not behave in such a manner, but become brave like Hadhrat Zubayr τ. Instead of being afraid of mice, cats and lizards, we must fear only Allaah and stay away from things and places that make us cowards. We must especially stay away from singing and dancing because Rasulullaah ρ said that it makes a person a hypocrite and a hypocrite is always a coward.

O Allaah! We beg You to save us from hypocrisy, cowardice, laziness and a lack of courage and make us brave, courageous and people willing to sacrifice our lives. Aameen.

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The One with Whom Allaah is Happy will be Happy with Allaah

The greatest success of a Muslim is for Allaah to be happy with him and it is for this reason that a Mu'min lives his life. All the treasures of the world and all the luxuries and comforts cannot equal the bounty of having Allaah's pleasure. The one who has Allaah's pleasure has everything and the one who does not have it really has nothing and everything he does have is useless to him.

The one who makes Allaah happy is successful even though he lives in a shack and wears torn clothing because he will be receiving Jannah, which is worth much more than the world and everything in it. Such a person is willing to sacrifice the pleasures of this world for those of the Aakhirah. On the other hand, the Kuffaar are such that they do everything for this world because it is their purpose. They live for this world, die for this world and make friends and enemies for this world.

As for the Mu'min, he does everything for the pleasure of Allaah. He makes friends for the sake of Allaah and fight for the sake of Allaah, he regards his life and his wealth to be a trust that Allaah has given him and will therefore sacrifice them for the sake of Allaah. These are true Mu'mineen because they are willing to suffer any difficulty for the sake of Allaah. It is about them that Allaah says, ***"Allaah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him."***

Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ once came to Rasulullaah ρ wearing a 'kurta' that had no buttons. He therefore used thorns to close the ends of the kurta. Hadhrat Jibra'eel υ then came to Rasulullaah ρ and after conveying greeting from Allaah to Rasulullaah ρ, he asked, "O Rasulullaah ρ! Why is it that

I see Abu Bakr using thorns to hold the ends of his kurta together?" Rasulullaah ρ replied by saying, "O Jibra'eel! Before the conquest of Makkah, Abu Bakr had spent all his wealth on me."

Hadhrat Jibra'eel υ then said, "Convey Allaah's Salaams to him as well and ask him that his Rabb asks whether he is still pleased with Him even in this condition of poverty." When Rasulullaah ρ asked this to Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ, he cried as he replied, "How can I ever be displeased with my Rabb? Of course, I am pleased."

Dear children! Poverty should never come in the way of a person trying to please Allaah because a person does not need wealth or a good house or clothing to please Allaah. If a person's heart has the desire to please Allaah, he will do so regardless of what condition he is in. On the other hand, when a person does not please Allaah, everything he has is useless because he has not come to his Master.

Dear friends! We must also lead a life that has a purpose and is not only centred around eating and drinking. We have not been sent to this world to waste our time. We should engage in Ibaadah and make an effort for others to do the same so that the Kalimah of Allaah can be raised high in the world. This is what we have been sent to the world for.

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Story Twenty-One

The Strength of Imaan

The children had not heard any stories from grandfather the previous two nights not because he had nothing to tell them but because of their own misbehaviour. Grandfather was telling them a story the first night when Aasim - who was always ahead of the others in reading and writing and also the most mischievous - started to tickle Khubayb. The roar of laughter that followed led the already tired grandfather to scold them lightly and send them off to bed.

On the second night, grandfather was again talking to them when Khubayb decided to have his own back. Again they got sent off to bed. It was now the third night and none of them wanted to lose out on the stories that strengthened their Imaan so much. They therefore sat there with respect and in perfect silence.

Grandfather thought awhile and then started to speak. "Dear children!" he said, "You know well that a Muslim fears none but Allaah and bows to none but Allaah. However, the person who does not fear Allaah will fear everything else. Now listen to this story:

It was during the time of Hadhrat Umar τ that an army under the command of Hadhrat Sa'd bin Abi Waqqaas τ marched to a place called Qaadisiyyah. There they faced the Persian army who were extremely afraid to fight the Muslims because they had heard of the way that the Muslims were always victorious in battle. They therefore invited the Muslims to enter into discussions with them.

Hadhrat Sa'd bin Abi Waqqaas τ sent a group of fourteen Sahabah ψ to Yazdagird, who was the Persian Emperor.

Before the group arrived, he had his court decorated with the most expensive decorations and carpets as he himself sat on an elaborate throne with his expensive crown and royal clothing.

When the Sahabah ψ arrived, they were completely unimpressed by all the decoration and beauty. This made Yazdagird furious. Hadhrat Nu'maan bin Muqarrin τ then spoke to Yazdagird and said, "Our only purpose of coming to your land is to invite you to accept Islaam. If you do not, you may come under our rule and pay the Jizya. If you do not wish to do this even, then yours and our swords will have to decide the matter."

Red with rage, Yazdagird remarked, "There was never a nation more low than the Arabs and we regarded it as an insult to even deal directly with them. In fact, when we needed to punish any of them, we would ask our labourers to do it for us."

None of the Sahabah ψ replied immediately to his outburst. Hadhrat Mughiera bin Izaarah τ who was the boldest of the group then spoke. He said, "O Yazdagird! The people you are addressing are all leaders of noble Arab tribes and feel humiliated to reply to such absurd remarks. They have therefore chosen to remain silent. As for your statement that the Arabs had been a very lowly nation, I wish to say that we had been misguided and lacking direction. We often fought each other, buried our daughters alive and saw nothing wrong in alcoholism and committing immoral acts. Allaah then sent to us a Nabi who showed us the right path, which we followed when we accepted Islaam. We are now bringing this invitation of Islaam to you. You may either accept it or choose to pay the Jizya. If you refuse both options, we shall be waiting for you on the battlefield."

Dear children! This is the strength of Imaan. When speaking the truth, one must never be afraid of anyone

because Rasulullaah ρ said, "The best form of Jihaad is to speak the truth in front of a tyrant ruler."[1] Remember that the truth will definitely have an effect on people when it is said in the right manner and with the right intention.

We must therefore learn from our elders how to tell people what is right and also whom to tell and when to tell them.

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[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.322).

Great Deeds and Small Desires

Dear children! The Sahabah ψ had the greatest of qualities that none other can compare with. They really sold their lives and wealth to Allaah and wanted only to attain His pleasure. In fact, even if they were offered rewards in this world, they would refuse it because they wanted everything in the Aakhirah. They gave everything in this world for the pleasures of the Aakhirah.

Although the Sahabah ψ ate simple foods, wore simple clothing and had very little wealth in this world, the deeds they did will be remembered forever. The Sahabah ψ had very little wealth in this world not because they did not know how to make money. They knew very well how to, but had no desire for the things of this world. They preferred others to have the wealth of this world so that they could have the best of the Aakhirah.

The Sahabah ψ were behind in acquiring the world, but ahead in acquiring the Aakhirah. While their pockets were empty, their records of good deeds were full because they did plenty to ensure that the Deen becomes strong in this world.

When Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ once came to Rasulullaah ρ with his armour and weapons (to fight in Jihaad), Rasulullaah ρ asked, "Should I not send you to a place from where you will return safely and also come back with plenty of booty?" "O Rasulullaah ρ!" Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ replied, "I have not believed in Allaah to acquire wealth (but to please Allaah)." To this, Rasulullaah ρ said, "Good wealth is excellent for a good person (receiving the booty does not affect your sincerity)."

Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah bin Jarraah τ was a given the title "The most trustworthy person of this Ummah" by Rasulullaah ρ himself. He was a great Mujaahid and conqueror. In fact, Shaam and even Baytul Muqaddis was conquered by him. It was at the time when he conquered Baytul Muqaddis that the Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar τ also arrived there. When a large army came out of the city to welcome Hadhrat Umar τ, he asked, "Where is my brother?" "O Ameerul Mu'mineen!" the people asked, "Whom are you talking about?" "Abu Ubaydah bin Jarraah τ," Hadhrat Umar τ replied.

When Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah τ arrived on his camel, Hadhrat Umar τ went forward to embrace him saying, "My brother! My brother!" Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah τ then invited Hadhrat Umar τ to his tent. Hadhrat Umar τ was surprised to see that apart from a sword, a shield and a saddle for the camel, there was nothing else there, even though Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah τ was such a great general and military commander.

With tears in his eyes, Hadhrat Umar τ asked, "O Abu Ubaydah! Why do you not keep at least the basic essentials?" "O Ameerul Mu'mineen!" Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah τ replied, "This is sufficient for a Mujaahid."

It is about great people like this that people say, "They have few desires but many intentions."

Another poet says:

"Living in this world, they have no attachment for it
Like walking in the ocean without getting the clothing wet"

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Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 30: What was the real name of the famous Mu’adhin Hadhrat Abu Mahdhoorah τ?

Question 31: What was the real name of Hadhrat Umu Haani رضي الله عنها?

Question 32: Which Sahabiyyah رضي الله عنها was called Humayra?

Question 33: What was the real name of Ummul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Ummu Salamah رضي الله عنها?

Question 34: What was the real name of Ummul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Ummu Habeebah رضي الله عنها?

Be Content

Contentment means to be happy with Allaah with what one has at present. Dear children! Always be content with what Allaah gives you and always thank him for everything. Be patient through all difficulties and if you have what you need for today, do not worry about tomorrow. Never look at people who have more worldly wealth than you, but look at those who have less because then you will be able to appreciate what you have.

There is a story about a man who was searching for happiness and comfort. Despite all the efforts he exerted, he could never find what he was looking for. He then finally went to a saint and asked, "Show me a way in which I can be a happy, comfortable and fortunate man." The saint then told him that he could help to make him such a man if he could bring the shirt of a man who is truly whom he would like to be. The saint gave him a year to find such a man.

The person then started travelling and went across deserts and through forests to find such a man, but whenever he was pointed in the direction of such a man, the man told him that although he seemed to be so happy, he was really not so. He would then recount to him all the difficulties and grief he was experiencing. In this way, a year passed without him finding anyone who could give him his shirt.

The year was drawing to an end when an intelligent man told him that while he was searching for the wealthy and important men and was looking in mansions and palaces, he had neglected to find those who were unknown. Thinking that he had nothing to lose, he went out in the

little villages and towns and was eventually directed to an old man sitting in the Masjid about whom people said that he had never complained of any grief.

The person went to the Masjid and saw an old man whose face was shining with Noor. The man was reciting the Qur'aan and when he saw the stranger approach, he closed the Qur'aan and greeted him. He wore an old turban and a white sheet and asked the person the reason for his coming. "Is it true," the man asked, "that you have never once complained of any grief or worry?"

When the old man confirmed what he said, the person asked, "Do you mean that you are as happy in your heart as you seem to be on the outside?" "That is exactly so," the old man smiled. "Then be good to me," the man pleaded, "You have heard my story and my year is almost over. Please give me your shirt so that I may take it back to the saint."

When the old man removed his sheet, all he wore under was a torn and tattered vest, which surprised the man. "Dear son!" the old man said, "Happiness is not in wearing good clothing. Keep your heart attached to Allaah and you will be happy. Do what pleases Allaah and your heart will be at ease. Trust in Allaah and worries will never come close to you. Thank Allaah in all conditions and you will be happy in all conditions. Be patient and content and you will be more comfortable than a king."

Hadhrat Majdhoob رحمه الله once said, "Sit in the remembrance of Allaah without a need for anyone else and even your old blanket will become the throne of Hadhrat Sulaymaan υ."

Dear children! We learn from this that the peace and comfort of this world and the Aakhirah lies in fulfilling the commands of Allaah. We must therefore try to do this, together with always thanking Allaah for His favours and never being jealous of others and having too many

desires. Our elders say that if the worry of the Aakhirah is in a person's heart, he will live in the shade of Allaah's mercy and a person living in Allaah's mercy can never have any worries and grief.

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Story Twenty-Four

A Wise Answer

A king once had a dream that all his teeth had fallen out. When he called for an interpreter, the interpreter told him that all his family members will die before him. This made the king very angry and he had the interpreter imprisoned. He then called for another interpreter, who told him, "From all your family members, you will have the longest life." Although both interpretations were really the same, the king was happy with the second interpreter and gave him a large reward.

The Shari'ah had also taught people to choose their words carefully and to be considerate when talking to others so that no one is hurt by one's words.

Dear children! When the truth is spoken in the right manner with the right intention, it will have the right effect. On the other hand, if the truth is spoken in the wrong manner with the wrong intention, it will have the wrong effect and be a cause of harm, just as it happened in the story.

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Story Twenty-Five

The Blessings of Sincerity

A Qaari Sahib who lived in Raampur once decided to go for Hajj. Because he only had one Rupee and four Aanas, he had some chickpeas roasted with the one Rupee and a bag sewn with the four Aanas. With this, he left for Makkah on foot.

He fasted every day and if he received any food without asking, he would eat that, otherwise, he ate some of the chickpeas. In this manner, he eventually reached Mumbai after a few months.

He now needed to take a ship across the sea to reach Makkah, but this required a ticket, which he could not afford. He therefore decided to ask the captain for a job on the ship. Although he was not a Muslim, the captain could see that the Qaari Sahib was a pious man because of the Noor on his face and told him that he did not have a job that would suit him. The Qaari Sahib however said, "Whether you think it suits me or not, I am prepared to take any job even though it may be a degrading one."

The captain then told the Qaari Sahib that the job was to remove the excreta from the cabins every day. "I accept the job," the Qaari Sahib said happily. The captain was surprised that such a pious man would accept a job like that, but to make the Qaari Sahib change his mind, he made a condition that the Qaari Sahib would first have to lift an extremely heavy bag that lay on the deck.

The Qaari Sahib went up to the bag, recited Bismillaah, put his hands on the bag and made du'aa to Allaah saying, "O Allaah! This is as much as I can do. It is now up to You to help me." He then lifted the bag above his head and

brought it to the captain. The captain was astonished to see such a thin man do such a thing and immediately gave him the job.

Just then, two poor Muslims came to the captain and also asked for jobs so that they could go for Hajj. When the captain offered them the same job as the Qaari Sahib, they felt it to be too low a job and were not prepared to take it. "Dear servants of Allaah!" the Qaari Sahib said to them, "Do not deprive yourselves of the Hajj. If you accept the job, I shall do it for you." They then accepted. In this manner, many more people took the job.

Therefore, the Qaari Sahib would carry the excreta from the cabins every day and before every salaah, he would take a bath and wash his clothing. After the Isha salaah, he would then worship Allaah in secrecy and recite the Qur'aan. The captain used to listen to him every night and one day asked, "Please teach me what you are doing because I like it very much." "You will first have to become clean and pure," the Qaari Sahib said. As the captain got up to get some water, the Qaari Sahib said, "I am talking about a different type of purity, which is to recite: لا إلهَ إلاَّ اللهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ (Laa Ilaaha Illallaah Muhammadur Rasulullaah). Thereafter, the Qaari Sahib taught the captain how to take a bath and this he did.

After this, the Qaari Sahib led the captain in salaah and when he went into Sajdah, he made du'aa to Allaah saying, "O Allaah! If by my removing the filth of people, this man can be removed from the filth of kufr and Shirk, then this is a cheap bargain to save him from the punishment of Jahannam." He then spent the night reciting the Qur'aan in salaah with the captain beside him.

When the Muslims were preparing for the Zuhr salaah the following day, the captain was also getting ready for salaah. "What!" the other officers of the ship cried out, "Why are you praying like the Muslims? Have you become

a Muslim?" The captain replied, "I do not know whether or not I have become a Muslim, but I enjoy this very much."

There was a lot of noise and commotion about this on the ship, which attracted the captain's wife to come there. "What is happening here?" she asked. With tears in his eyes, the captain replied, "I also do not know what has happened, but I do know that whenever this saint recites the words of his Creator at night, I also wish to recite it and now I feel that I would die if I have to stop doing this."

"You have then become Muslim," the people shouted. "Have you made me a Muslim?" the captain asked the Qaari Sahib. "Dear brother," the Qaari Sahib replied, "You learnt the Kalimah from me." To this, the captain said, "Then if I am not yet a Muslim, I want you to make me recite it again." The Qaari Sahib then made the captain recite:

اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لا اِلهَ اِلا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَ رَسُوْلُه
"I testify that there is none worthy of worship but the One Allaah Who has no partner and I testify that Muhammad ρ is the servant and Rasul of Allaah."

In this way, the captain was purified from Shirk.

"Oh dear!" the captain's wife cried, "You have become a sinner!" "Not at all, dear lady," the Qaari Sahib said, "In fact, he is now as sinless as a newborn baby." The wife then said, "In that case, I want you to make me the same." The Qaari Sahib then told her to sit behind a screen and to cover her head as he made her recite the Shahaadah as well. Through her husband, he then taught her what she needed to know about Islaam.

When they reached the shore, they all entered into the state of Ihraam and left for the Haram. When the husband and wife first saw the Kabah, all the false attractions of

other religions left their minds and, under the guidance of the Qaari Sahib, they performed Tawaaf and completed their Hajj.

The husband and wife asked to remain with the Qaari Sahib and they all eventually passed away in the blessed land, may Allaah shower His mercy on all of them. Aameen.

Dear children! See how one Rupee and four Aanaas and walking with sincerity took a person for Hajj and saved two people from suffering forever in Jahannam. The purpose of life is to get close to Allaah and to have a heart filled with love for Him. When this fervour of remembering Allaah and wanting to meet Him overpowers a person, it will also overpower other people and be a cause for many others receiving this wonderful Deen.

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Allaah is Watching

Naadiya was sitting in the exam room with all her concentration focussed on her paper. It was the first paper of the examinations. She suddenly felt some pain in her fingers and knew that it was because she was writing for such a long time. As she put her pen down and looked about the room, she noticed that there was no one around. Even the teachers were nowhere to be seen.

As she looked again, she was pleased to see that there was one other girl there. She however had a page beneath her exam paper from which she was copying all the answers. Naadiya was about to scold the girl, but then realised that it would not stop her and even if she had to tell any of the teachers, they would pay no attention to her. She therefore continued with her paper and decided to speak to the girl afterwards.

When they both had left the class, she went up to the girl and greeted her with Salaam. The girl replied kindly and seemed surprised that Naadiya spoke to her because they had never met before. “What is your name?” Naadiya asked. “Raahila,” she replied. Naadiya did not want to address the topic immediately, so she asked, “How was the paper?” “It was a piece of cake,” Raahila replied, “And my preparation was also spot on.”

“I see,” Naadiya said, “now tell me…” Naadiya had not yet finished her sentence when Raahila suddenly asked, “And why do you wish to know so much about my paper?” “Well,” Naadiya began, “I noticed that you were doing something.”

“So what has that something got to do with you,” Raahila said challengingly, “there are so many others who do it,

why pick on me. Why should I deprive myself of the opportunity?"

"Dear sister," Naadiya said, "although it seems that no one is watching you in the exam room, especially when the teachers have left, never forget that Allaah in the heavens is still watching. Nothing can be hidden from him and He knows everything. When copying, we may be earning marks in this world, but we are really losing every mark in the Aakhirah. There we will be embarrassed and nothing will be able to take away the embarrassment. Here you may have a second chance to pass, but there you will have no second chance at all. If we spend all the valuable moments of this life in doing wrong, when will we have anything to fill the scale of good deeds?"

Raahila was listening and was affected by what Naadiya had to tell her. This made Naadiya very happy and she wished that she could have helped every other girl in the same way.

Dear children! A sin is a sin and we must do all we can to stay away from sins and also to stop others from sinning. Copying in the exams is Haraam and an act of deception. It is unfortunate that we still see so many children, even children in the senior classes still do it.

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The Tree

My name is tree. Although you may just call me tree, I have many names, types and brothers and sisters. I, together with many other things have been around for a very long time and we have all been created for the benefit of mankind and Allaah has created everything for a purpose. At the same time, the use of sand would be incomplete without water, just as the use of anything else would be incomplete without another. Everything such as the sand, the stones, the water and all other things have a deep relationship with each other.

Without all of us together, the life of man would be incomplete. For example, when man needs to build, man needs bricks, sand, stone, cement and a variety of other things. However, the building would be incomplete without me. By cutting me up and using me, doors, window frames, cabinets, roofs and all other types of things are made. Thereafter, I am again needed to make things comfortable in the house when pieces of me are used to make chairs, tables, beds, sofas, shelves and many other things.

When people feel cold during the winters, they need me to burn so that they can keep themselves warm and comfortable. I am found everywhere you look, whether east, west, north, south, in forests, deserts, cities, highlands, lowlands and everywhere else.

I come in many varieties as well. While some of us bear fruit, others do not. There are maple trees, oak trees, pine trees, palm trees, acacia trees and many more to mention. From those that bear fruit, people receive apples, pears, mangoes, plums, oranges, peaches, guavas, figs, olives and many, many more. Of those that

bear flowers, there are the roses, Chameli, night queen, sandalwood and many more.

All trees are extremely beneficial to mankind and there is no country of the world in which we do not cover thousands of acres of land. It is especially in the rural areas where people appreciate us more because they build their houses from logs and light fires for cooking and for warmth.

The ground is my mother and my roots travel deep into it. Man, animals, insects and birds all benefit from us. We are homes to them all and even large factories and businesses from which people get their money are very greatly in need of us. There is scarcely anything that does not need us.

Although I appear to be one tree, I have many brothers and sisters everywhere and we are there to serve mankind. In fact, people even have a saying about us that reads: "Look at the example of the tree, it gives shade to others while is itself burning in the sun."

Dear children! Tell each other about the many benefits of trees.

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Question 35: What was the real name of the Sahabi τ who was called Dhul Yadayn because he had long arms? It was this Sahabiτ who once corrected Rasulullaah ρ in salaah.

Question 36: Which Sahabiτ was called the Yusuf υ of this Ummah because of his handsomeness?

Question 37: What was the real name of Hadhrat Abu Sufyaan τ?

Question 38: For which Sahabiτ did Rasulullaah ρ make du'aa that Allaah bless him in business and because of this du'aa, he was even able to earn a profit from selling dung?

Question 39: Which Sahabiτ was famous for being *Mustajaabut Da'waat* (someone whose du'aas were accepted)?

The Mission

The wheel of time is turning all the time and no person can stop it. The days follow the nights and the days go by and it is only when 365 days of the year pass us by that we realise that another year of our lives has passed by. We then start to regret the previous year because there have been many things that we had wanted to do or to finish but we had not been able to do so.

Because it is often our laziness and lack of planning that causes us not to fulfil our plans, it is necessary for us make new intentions every year and to renew our efforts. When you intend to do anything, it can be done as long as you make du'aa and have the assistance of Allaah.

You must therefore take a pen and page and sit in the quietest corner of the house. There, you should make a list of the things that you wish to do and start making plans for it from now.

PLANNING AND BEING ORGANISED IS IMPORTANT IN LIFE

The thing that needs most of your attention at present is you studies because it will assist you in later life.

Now if you look at the system of this world and the universe, you will notice that it all operates with system and order. The movements of the sun and the moon and the changing of day and night are all perfectly organised. We must also try to arrange our lives in a manner that is organised and systematic. By doing this, we will see better results in our studies as well.

STAY AWAY FROM USELESS ACTS

We must do our best to avoid everything that wastes out time. Besides doing this, acts like watching television and videos are also Haraam. There are however many sports and games that we may play because they are approved by the Shari'ah. Running or jogging according to the Shari'ah so that the lungs and body remain fit and healthy is also encouraged, but a specific time must be given for this. we must also use our spare time to read the many Islaamic books and magazines that are available so that our knowledge can be increased.

DO TODAY WHAT CAN BE DONE TODAY

Never delay work for the next day because it never seems to come and soon the work will pile up like a mountain.

CONTROL YOUR HABITS

Try and get a grip on your bad habits and make an effort to change them. For example, if you are in the habit of sleeping late and getting up late, try to sleep early and get up early so as not to be like a lazy person who drags himself through life, but a fresh person who runs through life.

USE A DIARY

Get into the habit of keeping a diary and write down every night what you have done for the day. Write that you had woken up early, exercised, ate and went to school. Say that at school your English teacher praised your essay and read it to the class. Say also that during the physical exercise period, you could not manage to do much of what was expected. Say what you did in the afternoon; whether you went shopping, visited a sick friend, helped your little sister with her project, completed your homework or later read your du’aas before lying down to sleep.

By doing this, you will be able to see what you have achieved as well as where your faults lie. You will then be able to do something to correct them.

Chart No 1						
My Duties				Time in which to do them		
No.	At Home	In my Studies	Type of work	Today	This Week	This Month

A CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE

We shall now show you such a way of gaining control over your bad habits that if you do it with sincerity, you will not only be able to organise your affairs, but you will be popular amongst your family members, your friends at school and college and everyone else you meet.

(Chart no 2) Month:								
I intend to give up all the bad habits listed here and to do all the good ones listed		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1. I will not lie								
2. I shall not give up hope								
3. I shall not stay in bad company								
4. I shall not misbehave								
5. I shall not lose my temper								
6. I shall not find fault in others								
7. I shall abstain from complaining								
8. I shall speak the truth								
9. I shall show love to all								

10. I shall wake up early and sleep early								
11. I shall keep myself and my surroundings clean and tidy								
12. I shall be an example to others								
13. I shall think good of others								
14. I shall respect myself and others								
15. I shall not watch TV								

You should draw up two charts like these and follow the directions they give.

In the first chart, you should mark whether a duty is related to the home or to studies. You must then write down a description of the duty, e.g. mark "at home" and state "Had to do the grocery shopping". Complete this chart every morning and then have a look at it when you lie down to sleep. Whatever was not completed, will have to be added to the following day's chart.

The second chart makes a person a good citizen and aims to get rid of bad habits. It is an excellent way of improving oneself and taking one closer to Allaah. Make a mark to show success and another to show failure in the various columns. Try to fill all the spaces.

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Strange Questions

A person once decided to test the intelligence of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas τ by asking him the following questions:

1. What has neither flesh nor blood, yet talks?
2. What has neither flesh nor blood, yet runs?
3. What has neither flesh nor blood, yet breaths?
4. What two things have neither flesh nor blood, yet they have responded when questioned?
5. What was that which Allaah sent, but was neither a man, a Jinn or an angel?
6. What was that which caused the dead to rise when it died?
7. How tall was Hadhrat Aadam υ, how long did he live and who succeeded him?
8. Which bird does not lay eggs?

Promises

Hadhrat Hudhayfah τ and his father Hadhrat Yamaan τ were on their way to Madinah to meet with Rasulullaah ρ when Abu Jahal got hold of them. When he asked them where they were headed, they informed him that they intended to meet Rasulullaah ρ in Madinah.

"You are going there to fight against us," Abu Jahal shouted. When Hadhrat Hudhayfah τ assured him that all they intended doing was meeting Rasulullaah ρ, Abu Jahal made them promise that they would not fight with the Muslims against him and the other Mushrikeen. Hadhrat Hudhayfah τ was therefore forced to make the promise.

At that time, the Muslims army was already leaving for the Battle of Badr and Hadhrat Hudhayfah τ met them on the way. This was that great battle that Allaah refers to as the day of *Furqaan* (the day when the truth was separated from falsehood). It was the Muslims fighting in this battle who are referred to as the *Badriyyeen*, who have a very high rank among all the Sahabah ψ and about whom Rasulullaah ρ stated that they were all forgiven by Allaah.

When Hadhrat Hudhayfah τ met Rasulullaah ρ, he explained to Rasulullaah ρ that they had been forced by Abu Jahal to promise not to fight in the battle. He had placed a sword to their necks and they had to make the promise to save their lives. Hadhrat Hudhayfah τ therefore asked Rasulullaah ρ to allow them to fight in the battle because their promise was one made under threat.

Rasulullaah ρ however told them that since they had made a promise, they were forced to keep it. At that time, the

Muslims needed every man they could get to fight for them because they were so few in number. They were only 313 in number with just seventy camels, two horses and eight swords. The other Sahabah ψ carried only sticks and rocks. However, despite the need for more people, Rasulullaah ρ still saw it more important for a person to keep his promise.

Dear children! We learn from this incident that even if a promise is made to a Kaafir, it must be kept as far as is possible. However, there may be different situations at different times that will not be like this. it is therefore necessary to always ask the Ulema and the elders whenever such occasions arise.

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Story Twenty-Eight

We Were Wrong

Shaahid was an intelligent boy, but he used his intelligence for the wrong reasons; he was always thinking up new ways of being mischievous. It was his daily practise to play with his brother Aabid in the park every day at four in the afternoon. There they would use their catapults to make a target of something.

There was a lovely blue-eyed cat lying beneath a tree that day and Shaahid bet with Aabid saying, "I will get you an ice-cream if I do not shoot its ear." He then placed a large stone in the catapult and shot it at the poor cat. The stone hit the cat's leg and the poor creature got up whimpering in pain. "You lost your bet," Aabid reminded Shaahid and they both left for the shop.

Not long afterwards, they were both walking home licking their ice-creams, with Shaahid saying with pride, "We got the ice-creams without having to pay for them as well. You fooled the shopkeeper yesterday and today was my turn."

As they passed by the park, Shaahid said, "Look at Ahmad there by the tree. What is he up to?" The two went up to Ahmad and asked, "What are you doing?" "I am rubbing some medicine on this cat's leg and wrapping it in a bandage. Some heartless person hurt it so severely that she walks with a limp."

The brothers laughed loudly and continued on their way. "I cannot understand that Ahmad," Aabid said. "Just yesterday when the teacher was collecting money for the people affected by the floods, he actually gave away his lunch money as a donation. I just told the teacher that I

had brought no money. He is not at all clever. I really have fun making a fool of him and I have devised a plan to do so tomorrow."

The following day, the brothers hid themselves behind a tree on the playground and when they saw Ahmad approach, they threw a hundred Rupee note on this path. Ahmad picked up the note and walked off.

Aabid later went to the teacher and said, "Sir! Today my mother gave me a hundred Rupees to buy some books, but when I returned from the canteen, I saw Ahmad searching in my bag. I thought that he needed a pen or ruler, but now I realise that he had stolen my money. I think that you should give him very severe punishment so that no one in the class ever steals again."

The teacher has been listening quietly to the story and then told them to place their hands on the desk. He then took his cane and caned them ten shots each before saying, "When I was in the staffroom, Ahmad brought me a hundred Rupee note, saying that he had picked it up on the playground. I was so proud to know that I have students who are so honest that they would not keep the money for themselves. You two however disappoint me with your lies and accusations. Now hold your ears and remain standing at your desks until the break."

The ten shots with the cane and standing for three hours really tired the two out and when they reached home, they went straight to bed without even eating. As he closed his eyes, Aabid saw beautiful gardens with colourful flowers and wonderful fruits. There was a cool breeze, beautiful palaces and rivers of milk.

There he saw Ahmad enjoying himself and a voice said, "This Jannah is for people who do have love for Allaah's creation, who are not unkind to them, who do not deceive or steal and who spend their money for the pleasure of

Allaah. We will now reward them for their good and here they shall rest in peace forever."

A voice then called out, "Throw the others into Jahannam." When Aabid then looked in that direction, he saw a deserted place with snakes, scorpions and horrible creatures, thorny bushes and nothing but boiling water to drink. This sight made Aabid start to weep and it was his brother's voice that woke him up saying, "Hey, Aabid! Is that little caning and standing making you a coward?"

Aabid had tears in his eyes as he spoke to his brother saying, "Shaahid! Mom and Dad are always telling us that the result of evil will always be evil and I have understood the meaning of this through my dream today. Let us now make up our minds to practise on the advice that our parents and teachers give us so that we may benefit and never come into harm's way."

Dear children! If we control ourselves in this world and stop doing what our elders stop us from, we will be saved. However, we will be destroyed if we are negligent and die without making Taubah. The great scholar and Mufti of Pakistan, Hadhrat Moulana Mufti Muhammad Shafi رحمه الله used to say, "You, O tyrant, still have the chance to make Taubah so do not delay. The person who falls and then gets a hold on himself has not really fallen at all."

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The History of April Fools Day

It is unfortunate that many Muslims in this twenty first century think that they cannot make any progress unless they follow the ways of the West. One of the worst customs of the west is that they follow the practise of April fool's day in which people make jokes at the expense of others. This wastes the time and effort of many people and the lies hurt many people who find out the truth of the matter only on the second of April. Let us tell you the history behind this day.

When the Kuffaar regained control of Spain from the Muslims, they were killing so many Muslims that they were actually getting tired of doing so. Their king Ferdinand then made an announcement that all Muslims wishing to leave Spain to live in a Muslim country could do so using the ships that would be made available to them. Thousand of Muslims boarded the ships to leave the country and when the ships were deep at sea, Ferdinand's men made holes in the ships and left by lifeboat. The ships sank with all the Muslims on board and this day which was the first of April became a day when the Kuffaar would celebrate how they had fooled the Muslims. It is to celebrate this that people now spread false rumours on this day to fool others.

Rasulullaah ρ explained the evil of such a practice when he said, "Whoever imitates a nation shall be with them." It is therefore feared that Muslims who imitate this evil practice will be raised with the Jews and Christians on the Day of Qiyaamah. Muslims must therefore stay away from this because together with imitating the Kuffaar, there are many other sins involved in it.

Even worse is when we boast about our Haraam act to others by telling them that we gave someone the false

message of a death or that instead of a sweet drink, we gave someone another mixture to drink because of which he vomited. Remember that boasting about sin and regarding to be Halaal can actually make one lose his Imaan. May Allaah save us all. Aameen.

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Story Twenty-Nine

Reaching the Goal

"Aneesa!" her madam called, "I heard that you have enrolled Maryam in school. Is this true?" "Yes, it is," Aneesa replied. "Well," the madam remarked, "You know how much money will be spent in buying books and other things. What will you get out of it? Why don't you rather save the money for her wedding?"

"But my daughter has a great desire to study, madam," Aneesa replied. "Look here Aneesa," the madam said, "If you want to stay on here and work, you will have to do as we say. Otherwise, you may find another job." "Yes, madam," Aneesa said with a broken heart, "It will be as you say."

Maryam was excited when she arrived home after school. "Mom," she said, "I will be having a new uniform and new books. I will then study well and soon I will become a doctor and you will never have to work again." She then kept talking as she held her mother's hand.

"Dear," her mother interrupted, "This was your first and last day at school." "Why, mom?" the little girl asked innocently. "Because madam says girls do not need to study," she explained. "But her daughter Rabee'ah is studying and she is a girl?" Maryam asked. "They are rich people and it does not matter whether they go to school, college or university or whether they speak English or Punjabi."

"Never mind, mom," Maryam consoled her mother, "Rabee'ah will teach me. She is a good girl and even gives me toffees." "No," her mother warned, "if she does that, her mother will chase us out of the house."

That night, Maryam told the story to Rabee'ah, who listened intently and then said, "I knew that my mother would do that. Never mind. I shall teach you." She then wiped the tears from Maryam's cheeks. Because Rabee'ah's father was out of the country on business most of the time, her mother ran the household and did whatever she wanted. Rabee'ah was not at all like her mother. She was a very compassionate person and liked Maryam.

Over the next few years, she taught Maryam. Her mother knew nothing of it because she had opened up a boutique and was out of the house all day. It was only when it was reported in the newspapers that Maryam had graduated for school that she found out what had been happening. She was filled with rage and immediately chased mother and daughter out of her house. It was Rabee'ah again who came to their assistance and rented an apartment from them somewhere. She also saw to their expenses.

Maryam studied hard and she eventually went on to study homeopathy from some expert female homeopaths and started her own practise. When women learnt of her great ability and experience, they started to flock to her and soon she was able to build her own house and look after herself.

She then took her mother and went to see their old madam. She spoke to the madam and said, "We have come here only to tell you that the destiny of every person lies in Allaah's hands and that everyone is equal in His sight. It is not the wealth of a person that gives him respect, but it is what he does and what comes out of his heart and tongue. While you regarded me as a lowly person, today you have been proven wrong."

"Please forgive me, dear," the madam pleaded, "I was so wrong." Mother and daughter wholeheartedly forgave the old lady. Although she is a wealthy woman today, Maryam

never forgot Rabee’ah and tells all that everything she is with the help of Rabee’ah.

Dear children! It is a great act of kindness to assist someone who is down and cannot help themselves. however our purpose must not be only to help people in their worldly activities, but more so to assist them in attaining the good of the Aakhirah. In this way, every good deed the person does will be a reward for us as well.

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Question 40: Who was yet another Sahabi τ who was *Mustajaabut Da'waat* (someone whose du'aas were accepted)?

Question 41: Who was the Sahabi τ who said that he heard Rasulullaah ρ say that a Nabi is buried in the place where he passers away? It was because of this narration that Rasulullaah ρ was buried in the room of Hadhrat Aa'isha رضي الله عنها.

Question 42: Which Sahabiyyah lady رضي الله عنها did Rasulullaah ρ see in Jannah when he went for Mi'raaj?

Question 43: Which Sahabi τ was the lightest to carry in the bier after he has passed away?

Question 44: Which Sahabi τ did Rasulullaah ρ like the most?

Etiquettes of Life

Things that we do or do not do that earn us the pleasure of people around us are called etiquette.

THE ETIQUETTE OF TALKING: Your speech must be clear and respectful and must show love for youngsters and respect for elders. Speak softly and in a manner that people can easily understand what you say. Never interrupt when others are speaking and speak what is relevant to the topic. It is reported that Rasulullaah ρ spoke slowly so that every word could be understood. Allaah also commands in the Qur'aan that people should speak in a good manner.

THE ETIQUETTE OF MEETING PEOPLE: Meeting people creates love and unity between people. Always be first to greet the next person and never speak disrespectfully even to people whom you now very well.

THE ETIQUETTE OF GATHERINGS: The most important factor to remember when sitting in a gathering with others is to listen to them. It is disrespectful to join a conversation without the permission of the people concerned. You must also not sit in a person’s reserved place for sitting when at his house and never join in the conversation of two people without their permission. It is also disrespectful to sit in front of people with the legs outstretched.

THE ETIQUETTE OF DRESSING: Clothing is a very important factor of any society. People dress according to the climate and customs of their areas, but it is necessary to remember that men must cover the area of their bodies that is Fardh (obligatory) to cover and dress in a manner

that does not create pride. Women and girls should dress to conceal their beauty and to protect their modesty. Boys must also dress appropriately for every occasion and this must be learnt from the Ulema.

THE ETIQUETTE OF EATING: Wash the hands before eating, recite Bismillaah and eat from the food in front of you. Dish out only as much as you will be able to eat because being greedy and taking more than you can manage will only be a waste of food.

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Words of Wisdom

Great people have said:

- If the heart is dark, even sparkling eyes are useless
- Jealousy kills the jealous person before he dies
- The one who invites to good is as good as the doer himself
- Cautious people usually make less mistakes
- The more you rush, the later you get
- Man is a pendulum swinging between smiles and tears
- The message that silence delivers is more powerful than that which words can convey
- An empty belly does not make anyone intelligent
- Listen well to good advice regardless of who is saying it.

Six Habits

Some one once asked Hadhrat Ibraheem bin Adham رحمه الله for advice. The saint said, "You will have no danger to fear if you practise only six things:

1. Do not eat the sustenance Allaah gives you when you sin because it is extremely ungrateful for a person who disobeyed Allaah and then still eat what He gives you
2. Do not live in Allaah's land when you disobey Him because living in His land is then a shameless thing to do
3. Go where Allaah cannot see you when you sin because a person cannot sin knowing that Allaah is watching
4. Send the angel of death away when he comes for your soul. If you cannot do this, then how can you have the courage to sin?
5. Send the two angels Munkar and Nakeer away when they come to question you in the grave. If you cannot do this, then prepare well for their questions.
6. Run away from Jahannam on the Day of Qiyaamah. If you cannot do this, then stop sinning here in the world.

Golden Words

- Look for beauty within yourself because you will not find it anywhere else
- Respect others and they will automatically respect you as well
- Never let even your best friend know so much of you that he can harm you if he ever becomes your enemy
- A person with good eyesight is he who sees his own faults and the good in others

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For Your Benefit

Dear children! You have been told briefly about some etiquette. These are just an idea of how you should behave. The other etiquette should be learnt from the Ulema and your elders. If we learn only that we must never cause harm to anyone or anything, then we have learnt enough to give us peace. Hadhrat Hakeemul Ummah رحمه الله has mentioned that giving peace and comfort to others is more important than actually serving people.

Remember that just as it is important to engage in Ibaadah and to have the corrected beliefs, it is also important to behave well with people. It is unfortunate that we have neglected this today and together with making peoples lives miserable, our own lives are the same.

We must therefore make a firm intention to learn the correct etiquette from the Ulema and elders, to read their books and to start with ourselves, making the intention that from this day onwards, no person will ever have to suffer because of me.

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- Eggs and milk should be eaten often for breakfast because they contain protein, which is necessary for muscle development. They also contain calcium and vitamin D, both essential for the bones.
- Butter and cream are also healthy because of the heat they create in the body. However, too much of them is no good.
- Oranges and grapefruit are also very healthy because they contain vitamin C, which is very necessary and contributes to healthy gums.
- Dried fruit are healthy for children aged seven and more, as are nuts because they create heat in the body.
- Vegetables and greens are very healthy because they contain vitamins B and C together with calcium and salt. They should be eaten every day. Examples of these are tomatoes, carrots, salads, peas, etc.
- Olive oil is also very beneficial for the eyesight and for the health in general because it contains vitamins A and D.
- It is also beneficial for bigger children to eat some sweetmeats, especially those made from almonds, carrots and eggs.

Answers to the Strange Questions

1. It is Jahannam because when Allaah will ask it on the Day of Qiyaamah whether it is full, it will ask for more.
2. The staff of Hadhrat Moosa υ because it would become a snake that ran like others
3. The morning because Allaah says in the Qur'aan, **"By the morning when it takes a breath."**
4. They are the heavens and the earth because when Allaah asked them to submit willingly or unwillingly, they chose to submit willingly.
5. It was the crow that Allaah sent to show Qaabeel how to bury his brother's body.
6. It is the cow of the Bani Israa'eel that Allaah speaks about in Surah Baqara. When a piece of its flesh was struck on a dead person, he got up and told the people who had killed him.
7. Hadhrat Aadam υ was seven arm's length tall (one arm's length is approximately eighteen inches) and he lived to the age of nine hundred and forty years. His successor was Hadhrat Sheeth υ.
8. The bird is the bat, which Allaah allowed Hadhrat Isa to create. Bats give birth to their children.

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Answers to the Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

1. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubayr τ
2. Hadhrat Miqdaad bin Aswad τ
3. Hadhrat Abu Abdullaah Zubayr bin Awaam τ
4. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood τ
5. Hadhrat Abu Sinaan Asrawi τ
6. Hadhrat Zaynab bint Jahash رضي الله عنها
7. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Amr bin Al Aas τ
8. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Jahash τ
9. Hadhrat Bilaal τ
10. Hadhrat Khubayb τ
11. Hadhrat Sauda bint Zam'ah رضي الله عنها
12. Hadhrat Sauda bint Zam'ah رضي الله عنها
13. Hadhrat Aa'isha رضي الله عنها
14. Hadhrat Hafsa bint Umar رضي الله عنها
15. Hadhrat Aa'isha رضي الله عنها
16. Hadhrat Ummu Habeebah رضي الله عنها
17. Hadhrat Ummu Salamah رضي الله عنها
18. Hadhrat Safiyya bint Huyay رضي الله عنها
19. Hadhrat Zaynab bint Jahash رضي الله عنها
20. Hadhrat Maymoona bint Haarith رضي الله عنها
21. Hadhrat Khadeeja رضي الله عنها and Hadhrat Zaynab رضي الله عنها
22. Hadhrat Safiyya τ
23. Hadhrat Sauda bint Zam'ah رضي الله عنها
24. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Sakhar τ
25. Hadhrat Abdullaah τ
26. Hadhrat Ibn Ummu Abd τ
27. Hadhrat Abul Masaakeen τ
28. Hadhrat Khaalid bin Zaid τ
29. Hadhrat Nufay bin Haarith τ
30. Hadhrat Samurah bin Mi'yaar τ
31. Hadhrat Faakhta bint Abu Taalib رضي الله عنها
32. Hadhrat Aa'isha رضي الله عنها
33. Hadhrat Hind bint Abu Umayyah رضي الله عنها

34. Hadhrat Ramla bint Abu Sufyaan رضي الله عنها
35. Hadhrat Umar bin Khirbaaq τ
36. Hadhrat Jareer bin Abdullaah τ
37. Hadhrat Sakhar bin Harb τ
38. Hadhrat Urwa bin Abul Jadd τ
39. Hadhrat Sa’eed bin Zaid τ
40. Hadhrat Sa’d bin Abi Waqqaas τ
41. Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ
42. Hadhrat Ummu Sulaym رضي الله عنها
43. Hadhrat Sa’d bin Mu’aadh τ
44. Hadhrat Zaid bin Haaritha τ